

## **OUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION**

**Orion, Bataan, January 11, 2011**

**We are reaching out to our relatives, community, all municipal officials and employees, including the police and fire station personnel to bring greetings of a Merry Christmas and bountiful and peaceful New Year. May the Chief Executive bring new leadership and hope, new investments and improve the infrastructure projects to help reduce high rate of unemployment and help the less fortunate citizens of this community.**

**Please READ ON for more ...**

### **Our New Year Resolution (cont'd)**

**Orion, Bataan. January 11, 2011**

The present administration has just completed sixth months in office. It is too early to measure their accomplishment based on all the promises of change they have made during election campaign. The Chief Executive is in the learning process and adjustment period; therefore it is premature to blame his minor mistakes. Give the Chief Executive more time, the end of three year term is still far away.

As my New Year Resolution, I urge the present administration to review the policies that were introduced and promulgated by the past administration and Sanguniang Bayan but were never implemented that are vital to the progress of the municipality and for the common welfare of the people. I urge the administration to revitalize and bring new energy on your quest of change and bring progress to our municipality and serve the people well. The people of this community must understand that it is not a one way street; the people as the citizen of this town are duty bound by law and custom to learn, cooperate, participate and appreciate the services of the municipal government. There is a saying: "It is not what the country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

- On this resolution, I will present the facts that I have seen and observed during the few years that I have lived in this town. I am sure many of you may be affected by my expose', some are good some are not too good. I will present the issue as I see it. I must apologize if you are affected or offended, please read further.
- Unlike regular career civil service employee who has to punch in daily at 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and be the workhorse of the administration, elected officials do not. That doesn't mean that because you don't have to punch in daily, you only come to work when it is only necessary to attend to the Sangunian once a week session and your committee hearing. There are many things to do if you are really serious in your committee assignments, reviewing, drafting, updating municipal ordinances, rather than to attend to your hobbies, part time job and moonlighting job on days you do not come to work. What comes to mind now, amongst others, is the turnover of residential subdivision to the municipal government. There were road, sewer, sidewalk, open space that were never completed when the residential subdivisions were turned over to the MG, or that donated real properties were never Titled to the MG. **Please do not accept the turnover of residential subdivision to the municipality until such time, road, sewer, sidewalk, utility poles and new Title Deeds to the donated open space and streets are completed. It becomes a financial burden to the municipal government and the Barangay if it is not completed particularly when there is a lack of municipal funds. It smells anomaly.**

- To all department heads, you have been in that position for a long time and you know what has to be done; be mindful of your position and responsibility to bring discipline and work ethics in your department. The unauthorized use of pirated computer software program in your subordinates' computer not on a work related use is a violation of intellectual property rights; a responsibility you may be personally liable. The sooner the deletion of those unauthorized computer programs is advisable. The use of the internet for personal use during working hours and municipal computer is wrong.

**Your loyalty ends when the administration term of office expire and start anew with the new administration. The success of the present administration depends on your support, advice and cooperation, be a team player.**

- The Sanguniang Bayan is the law making body of a municipality. A member as a law maker, among other requirements, must possess certain qualifications to be elected, namely: A citizen of the Philippines, eighteen (18) years of age on election day, be able to read and write Filipino or any other Philippine language or dialect. There is no requirement that a candidate must be proficient in English and a high school graduate. Therefore, why should we expect them to come up with legislative directives of good quality? **I don't know this: Is there a requirement that Ordinances and Resolutions must be promulgated in English? Why not in Tagalog where everybody understand.**

There are many Municipal Ordinances and Resolutions that have been promulgated by the Sanguniang Bayan more than two years ago, five years ago, ten years ago, that are neatly filed in binders on shelves but have not or never implemented by the executive departments, Barangay and the PNP. **It is a shame! These ordinances have become moot and useless, waiting to be outdated, revised or amended.** I do not understand the rationale of the previous chief executive; he approves the promulgated ordinances and resolutions, but refuses to convene a board to enact rules and guidelines, leaving the order ineffective.

- Depending on the political persuasion of the Chief Executive regular employees are either reshuffled or realigned with the view that their loyalty is dislocated. Generally speaking, few are dedicated to their position, others are not. Few have the attitude that their position is permanent, may not be terminated and guaranteed with a lifetime tenure; a department head could be seen just sitting down at the lobby outside their office watching people passes by or smoking; perhaps being bored with nothing to do or looking for something to do. A department head has been seen shopping at a hardware store during working hours, not coming to work on time, or office workers slacking after lunch, sitting down socializing with other co-workers waiting for the day's end. People from the outside come and go socializing with employees during working hours. Vendors of chicharon, food and clothing could be seen in corridors and offices selling/soliciting during working hours. **Department heads: it is not too late to correct the discipline and work ethics of your subordinates, be an example as to be emulated.**
- Barangay elected officials are not complying with their duties and responsibilities as required by the Local Government Code. The bottom line is that they must at least attend Sanguniang Barangay sessions twice a month that will entitle them the monthly honorarium, Christmas bonus and allowances, free medical and dental benefits, scholarship assistance for their children. For the Barangay operating expenses: cash gift, other personnel benefits, travel expenses, gas, telephone, electric, IT office supplies, furniture and 10% SK fund. What is left of the Barangay fund for the basic need and services? Almost silts for development projects. In addition, they reward themselves with supplemental budget for an out of town seminars with other municipal employees, with an alibi of leadership and

government training. They think that seminars may not be done locally; it has to be in Baguio or elsewhere. It is a very lucrative and good paying job for less work. The Barangay Captain is required by law to give notice and hold Barangay Assembly meeting and attended by their constituents. A reliable source has told me that certain Barangay Captain has missed convening the Sanguniang Barangay session for lack of quorum or reasons unknown.

**Please do not permanently steel-weld names of Barangay officials on boundary marker, their term of office is only three years, not a lifetime. This is just a waste of public funds. Please make sure all dogs are registered and vaccinated with anti-rabies and out off the streets, remove street humps, building and construction(sand and gravel) materials from the street, prohibit the building of indigenous shanties in public land without the municipal building permit, and deny the proliferation of informal settlers, prohibit hog raising on backyard, their manure smells and pollutes the air we breathe.**

Assist and certify the welfare need of the poor and indigents of your Barangay but not to the extent of becoming parasite and over dependent from the municipal funds. Use the head of household for community service and not for a free ride. Make sure that pregnant housewife in the Barangay are provided with the medical prenatal care from the municipal health center. Make sure children of school age go to school to be educated and become a good and law-abiding citizen instead of begging or scavenging on trash bins and be out of the streets during curfew hours. In the absence of a Population Officer and social worker, educate parents with family planning and responsible parenthood.

How does a constituent reach the Barangay Captain in time of emergency during a natural disaster, report a crime, or seek his assistance? All the 23 Barangay telephone numbers are not listed in the telephone directory or the municipal official telephone directory by name and number. A reliable source states that certain Barangay telephone number are listed under the name of the Barangay Captain but being paid with Barangay fund (conflict of interest?). **Please provide your telephone number with the Municipal Information Office and the Office of the Mayor.**

- Municipal Ordinance on Solid Waste Management of 24 September 2004 was promulgated based on Clean Air Act and Sanitation Code of the Philippines, enacted in the year 2000; it is not being fully implemented by the executive departments, barangays, and enforced by the PNP. It has affected the sanitary condition of our municipality, the quality of air we breathe and our environment. Trash is not being segregated as required. **To bring discipline and stop farmers from open burning “dayami” from rice field, cite them for violation and have them face the Municipal Trial Court, otherwise they will continue doing it. Agriculturist should teach farmers the scientific way of composting and soil management.**
- Municipal Ordinance on Investment and Employment Incentive Code of 22 July 2008 was enacted by the Sanguniang Bayan (SB) to promote new investments and to address the high unemployment in the municipality. The preferred investment areas are: agri-business, tourism facilities, transshipment facilities, light manufacturing, property development, and telecommunications and sports facilities. Seven (7) SB Committee Chairmen were assigned to assist the Board members; **the project looks good on paper; it is too good to be true, but, it was never implemented, I was told. How could we achieve economic progress and prosperity with this inactivity?**

We do not have a decent restaurant, decent hotel, fast food restaurant, amusement or entertainment and sports facilities, such as bowling alleys, automotive repair and supplies, electrical and electronic stores, commercial bank, theatre, no sightseeing or historical sites. **In reality, we are dependent of what we need, see, buy and do from Balanga City and out of town businesses. In reality, there is no place to go and socialize during the evening; consequently, you have to be indoor after dark. How do we expect domestic and foreign tourists to come and spend their dollars here, except the Orion Balikbayans. How do we expect to uplift the living condition of our people if we have to go out of town because those facilities are nowhere to be found in our town? The Code is now more than two years old, please convene the OIEIB Board and prioritize the implementation thereof.**

- The administration has provided welfare cash monetary assistance to the indigent families of this town with the recommendation of the Barangay and Social Welfare Office. I suggest that the head of the household of the beneficiaries be required to participate in the labor pool to work on cleanup project of the municipality to help reduce unemployment and uplift the living condition of the poor.

As part of the assistance to the senior citizens, require local pharmacies or drug stores to give the senior citizen discount of prescription drugs they deserve according to the law. **Local pharmacies are not complying with the law. There are penalties for non compliance, enforce it. Senior citizens are often left out of government social service program; and devoid from the love and care of their families, waiting for the sunset of their life.**

- The Chief Executive in his "State of the Municipality" on October 8, 2010, states that the Municipal Public Market has been operating at a loss of about PhP7.5 million by the end of June 30, 2010, such amount that could have been used to fund important projects and improve the delivery of the basic services.

In my quest for an answer, I found several documents I am looking for from the municipal computer data bank (orionbataan.com website), the Market Code, Sanitation Code of 2009, Articles 411 and 472 of the Local Government Code and Municipal Ordinance 01-040-039. The above Codes detailed the operation of the Municipal Public Market and required reporting of the Monthly Financial Statement.

From what I found, it appears that the Public Market has not or behind in reporting the tax/rent collections, other revenues and operating expenses. Consequently, the Treasurer has not been posting the Monthly Financial Statement on the Public Market. What I received from the Asst Treasurer is an original monthly statement in detail, including the monthly deficit. For example, the total deficit from January to June 2010 was PhP328, 464.74. **Buwan-buwan ang municipio ay nagpapaluwal.** I have no record of the monthly deficit of the current administration. I have not received any copy of the monthly disbursement and statement of account from the Municipal Accountant that I requested.

Unlike in the business world, the proprietor or owner has to know at the end of the month thru a Profit and Loss Statement the status of his undertaking. This is not the case in our public market. Everybody continues to do their own thing. **I suspect that the Chief Executive has not been getting the Monthly Financial Statement on the Public Market. Had he received the report, he would have known the continuing operating loss and would have done to correct the problem. It appears that the Resident Auditor and the Administrator have remised in their responsibility to appraise and advice the Chief Executive and the Sanguniang Bayan of the situation.** The monthly deficit was not discovered until the Commission on Audit submitted the Report during the transition on June 30, 2010, I was told.

The operational, financial and the sanitary condition of the public market require immediate attention by the new Administrator and the Public Market Master; innovate or have the market privatized. Flies, vermin, cats, small animals abound the public market area; it is detrimental to the health of the people. **Administrator and public market master, please pay attention what is being done of the Balanga Public Market. Municipal Health Officer, please make sure your Sanitary and Meat Inspectors comply with the Municipal Market and Sanitation Codes.**

- There is a Municipal Ordinance on Anti-Smoking policy (April 29, 2008) on all government/public buildings, schools in all levels, hospital and medical clinics, all enclosed public places and public conveyances. It shall be unlawful to smoke in all public places within the Municipality of Orion, except in designated smoking areas according to the Code. **The Municipal Health Office is the implementing authority. The apprehending authority is the Barangay Chairman and the PNP.** Promulgation of the rules and posting of no smoking signs were never initiated by the Municipal Health Office and why not? **It is high time for the Public Health Officer to explain why the responsibilities of the department is not being done and be reprimanded.**
- Rehabilitation of the provincial road in the town proper is being neglected. According with our municipal planner the responsibility is with the Provincial Government. If this is the reason, why on earth can't Municipal Planner, the Municipal Engineer and the Sanguniang Bayan Public Works Committee, collectively, pressure the provincial government and the congressman? We live in this town; not them. **Please do something, request the Governor or Congressman for the second district to use their "pork barrel" funds to rehabilitate the road, sewer and sidewalk of the provincial road in the town proper.** Other than resurfacing of ready-mixed asphalt, there is no other improvement. A slight rain floods the main road; pedestrian use the road because there is no sidewalks in our town proper. In certain section there is a narrow sidewalk, in many areas sidewalks are blocked with overgrown trees and open ditch. It is not the responsibility of business or homeowner to cement their frontage facing the provincial road, but they do. **PENELCO please remove those dangling electric wires hanging loosely with the power lines in the town proper. We want to see our streets clean and beautiful so tourist will come and visit out town.**

Take a look at what is being done in the City of Balanga; the city mayor was able to rehabilitate the city public market, streets and sidewalks. There is a disparity in the use of pork barrel in the province, the father is the governor sitting in Balanga, son the Mayor of the City of Balanga, another son is the Congressman of the Second District, naturally, and the allocation of public funds favors the area of their interest.

The law says that a motor vehicle must first be registered and issued a licensed a plate by the LTO before it may be driven upon a highway. This is not the case in our town. Slow moving unregistered vehicles, such bicycles, pedi-cabs, mobile vendors, bicycles with side car, carabao-driven cart, unlicensed motorized agricultural caterpillar, plow and harrow and junk peddlers are upon the provincial road in the town proper, hazardous and slows the flow of traffic. The Municipal Ordinance must be amended to define the types of vehicles the right to use the public highway.

There was a DPWH Dept Order since 2003 directing all Engineers throughout the Philippines to remove all encroachments on the road right-of-way. To this day, not even a single hump and other obstructions (sand and gravel, hollow block) on our streets have been removed. The unauthorized use of awnings

and awning posts are on the center of the right-of-ways when someone has died. Parked tricycles and motor vehicles are blocking the narrow streets. **There are open drainage and overgrown trees on the road right-of-way; the municipal engineer must be sleeping on the job or no one has the guts to tell him to do his job.**

- There is an administrative procedure for requesting a Building Permit based on the Building Code of the Philippines (there is no local municipal ordinance). The Municipal Engineer office has the responsibility processing building permit application. Would you believe, roughly speaking, about 60% of the residential and other buildings in our town may have no permit or building permit is approved before the reclassification of the land where the building will be built on. In addition certain barangay has allowed the proliferation of transient informal settlers (squatters) and indigenous shanties on public land without a municipal building permit, including electrical connection from PENELCO.

Would you believe that major repair or renovation of residential/business by owners do not request building permit, thereby losing revenue. I suggest the municipal government review the rules and procedures and practices of building permits and assessment of real, residential, business, industrial and commercial properties and a Municipal Ordinance are promulgated. I smell anomaly in the process, building may have been built on lot without setback of 2 meters from the property line because there is no proper inspection.

- The law says that a town is mandated to have a public cemetery. The priority project was authorized by the Sanguniang Bayan; the deal was negotiated with the real property owners, the loan of PhP8, 400,000.00 to pay for the property and appurtenances has been approved with the Land Bank of the Philippines. The municipality has paid half of the entire loan. The rest of the loan payment is to be paid out of the annual appropriation and from IRA funds. It has come to a standstill, the Vice Mayor, the Presiding Officer of the Sanguniang Bayan has told me on his letter: **“Sa ngayon nasa bagong namumuno na ng Kagalang galang na Punong Bayan Jose S. Santos and desisyon...”**

**With the high cost of burial plot today how is a poor citizen of this town afford to bury their love once without the financial assistance from relatives, friends and donors if this town does not have a public cemetery.**

- Town fiesta stringers, congratulatory greeting signs, public works announcement on our streets, election posters, businesses and residential subdivision promotions, etc., could be seen everywhere, on fences, on trees, lamp post, on power lines, etc; they are unsightly not contributing to the beautification of our town, and must be regulated. **Sanguniang Bayan, please promulgate rules and guidelines that require all signs and signboards must be approved by the Engineer’s Office first before being installed. Authorize the Engineer’s office to remove signs without a permit. Many times these signs are not being removed beyond the intended use.** The regulation should include the type, size, material to be use, placement restriction, the responsibility and liability of user. **It would be a pride and joy of everybody if we all participate in the beautification of our town.**
- The Fire Station is on a temporary location since 2003 taking over the Village Hall due to the renovation of the Municipal Building. The sleeping, cooking and dining accommodation is too small for the ten Firemen. **Please consider the relocation and establish a new building for the station.** Up to now the two (2) fire trucks have no LTO license plate. **It is recommended that surprise fire drill exercises be conducted from time to time to determine their reaction and readiness.**

- The PNP, according to the law, is to **“enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the protection of lives and properties.”** How could they be considered the law enforcer if they are nowhere to be seen on our streets during the day, at night I don’t know. Consequently, with a large area of the municipality, 65.41 sq.km, and the unevenly distributed 23 barangays, criminality goes on unchecked. It was reported that fuel tankers have been illegally discharging gas/diesel in our town without being known by the PNP or that they knew of their criminal activity but do not do anything about it. And the receiver of the transaction openly sells the gas/diesel illegally obtained to any buyers.

According to the law, the minimum police-to-population ratio shall not be less than one (1) policeman for every one thousand (1,000) persons. With our population of 54,410 on year 2009, our municipality should have at least fifty-four (54) uniformed officer and administrative aide. With less than twenty (20) man force, less 3 officers (chief, investigator, and sergeant) leaving more or less eight (8) officers on one shift?, no wonder there is less visibility of police officers. How could they perform efficiently as a law enforcement of this town with just a few of them? **Is there any reason why additional uniformed police may not be requested through the regular channel, or a local reserve volunteer force be recruited and trained in order to augment the shortage during emergency and disaster preparedness?**

**The Chief of Police is required by the Special Municipal Ordinance No. 01-040-039 to post/submit a regular monthly report on Peace & Order in the municipality. Has anyone seen the report?**

**The Committee on Good Government is the designated committee to monitor the compliance of the said ordinance and to report quarterly to the Sanguniang Bayan. Oops! Who is monitoring the committee?**

- The Traffic Enforcer force, now called Marshal, was realigned with the PNP. The administration has experimented certain road traffic signs at the intersection of the old market, however, in spite of the presence of traffic enforcers and a uniformed police officer, they are not able to suppress or enforce the rules of the road; they say it is the cultural mindset of the locals not to stop at intersection or stop for pedestrian crossing. **They only direct the flow of the traffic on four (4) places of the town proper, nothing more.** Violators will continue their bad attitude if they never reached the Municipal Trial Court and be disciplined. **If Marshals have no police power, authorize them; if they will not perform reprimand them, if all things fail replace them.**
- The repair and maintenance of all municipal building (I don’t have information on other buildings) is being neglected because the responsibility was just a collateral assignment to the Municipal Engineer office. There is no appointed General Services Officer. **If our municipal streets have lots of potholes the second floor of the municipal building have lots of peeled asphalt tiles; there is no indication floors were professionally cleaned, wax and buffed.** I don’t know about the women’s comfort room indoor, but **the men’s toilet is unsatisfactory; men are not used to washing their behind after use.** No wonder no user sits on filthy commode seats, a source of hepatitis B. The municipal employees were never provided a place to eat for break or lunch; they think their working desk is good enough. There is never a time portable toilet outside is available to the public when social activity is scheduled during the evening; they think that men can urinate anywhere at any time. Many times electric power is out during scheduled maintenance or if there is a brown out in our town, affecting employees who are dependent on using electric or electronic office equipment have nothing to do, becoming unproductive. **Why not provide emergency electric generator.** They always say as an excuse, there is no money! or perhaps they never thought of an electric generator. **The municipal plaza is large in area yet too small because**

**parking is disorganized; please designate and paint parking spaces for cars and tricycles. The time to act is now, and not to procrastinate.** Have the planner ever thought of relocating the main entrance to the frontage road, and not from the side entrance?

- Municipal Ambulance is for an emergency use and not as a mode of transportation for a confirmed inpatient admission and outpatient appointment in a Manila Hospital. **There is a need to change the practice of person-to-person arrangement with the Barangay Coordinator to a telephone request; saving a life is of the essence.**
- PENELCO the electric cooperative has the easement right to remove obstructions within the electric power lines. **But to prune the trees carelessly with wrong tool cutters by untrained workers and leave the cuttings on the ground are unacceptable.** Electric wires were seen to be loosely dangling with the power lines along the town proper; it could be mistakenly live and hazardous.
- **ORIWAD the municipal water district has also an easement right to install water pipe lines in the area of their concession, but to lay steel and plastic pipes on the side roads, hanging in open gutters and on the sidewalks is not acceptable, it must be buried underground to prevent from accidental damage and contamination.**

Legislative proposals were submitted on the 1) Rehabilitation of the provincial road in the town proper (May 2, 2010, 2) Small Animals (Nov 20, 2010), 3) Vermin Abatement Program (Sep 6, 2010), 4) Amendment to the Solid Waste Management (March 31, 2009), 5) Encroachment on the Road Right-of-Way (April 15, 2009), 6) Traffic Management (March 20, 2009), all of them were “dead on arrival” (DOA).

Internal Rules of Procedure for Sanguniang Bayan dated July 7, 2010, states under **Section 44. Committee Report.** “Every Committee to which the Presiding Officer refers a particular measure, shall submit its report in writing to the Sanguniang Bayan, thru the Secretary, within two (2) weeks after referral of the measure.” Also, Section 11. Observance of Internal Rules of Procedures. “Every member should understand and observe the Internal Rules of Procedure of this Sanguniang Bayan.” WOW! Oops, sorry to put certain committee members on the spot.

**This is a reminder to all municipal public employees of their duty: “All public officials and employees in the municipal government, including police personnel, are under obligation to respond promptly within fifteen (15) days from receipt of letters, telegrams or other means of communication sent by the public.”** The reply must contain the action taken on the request. For an in depth understanding of the above read the appropriate sections of RA6713 and Special Municipal Ordinance No. 01-040-039.

**Because of the above, this Resolution is being posted through the *orionbataan.com* website because none of the Public Officials of the present and the past that have ever responded, not a single word to say the least.** Several attempt have been tried to reach out to a few who have the authority to recognize the situation and have a secretary or an administrator simply respond: “we received your suggestions thank you, it is being studied, being referred to ... for investigation, for appropriate action, or what action to be taken, and we will let you know what action has been or will be taken.” **That is the proper courtesy and not to disregard the public. It is similar to putting the suggestion in your municipal “Suggestion Box” with no responsible committee appointed to study and award the appropriate beneficial suggestions.**



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**The Chief Executive is requested to appoint a technical ad-hoc committee to study the merit of the above and submit a written report to his office within two months.** I would be disappointed if my time and efforts researching and preparing the above does not go to waste.

If you ask me why I am wasting my time writing this Resolution; it is "For love of my Town".

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.** In the words of President P-Noy, kayo, the people, ang BOSS ko.

**ANONYMOUS**

January 11, 2011