

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC MARKET

By Anonymous, Monday, October 24, 2011

I have written several articles on the rehabilitation, mismanagement and the privatization of the municipal public market. No one in the administration or the public seems to be interested because, I think:

1. Public market is the traditional venue to sell, buy, and barter the local produce and seafood catch by the marginalized farmers and fishermen with minimum tax imposition.
2. Public market as an economic enterprise, as a matter of policy, to serve the people.
3. The population care less what type or kind of open market to meet their daily need.
4. It is none of their concern, or none of them are interested to know the impact of modern and sanitary supermarket to their well being, their financial, their health and their environment...

I still say the traditional public market style is outmoded, it is not the latest trend and should be outsourced to a private investor similar to the supermarket of SM, PUREGOLD, MARQUE, and the Subic ROYAL Supermarket. Here is the reason why.

The following is the actual major operational expenses of the Public Market for year 2009 according to the Accounting Department Report. The second half of 2010 and 2011 figures under the current administration are estimates only.

1. Salaries of regular and casual workers for the public market: PhP4,639,044.85,
2. Fringe benefits : PhP3,755,734.57
3. Total salaries and fringe benefits: PhP8,394,779.57
4. Maintenance and Operating Expenses: PhP1,499,049.99
5. Actual subsidy for the public market: PhP7,658,152.99

The above when added , the actual cost for operating the Public Market, for year 2009, is in the amount of PhP17,551,982.55, more or less, and the deficit is in the amount of PhP7,658,152.99. In other words, the fees, rentals, tickets may have to be increased or adjusted, reduce the number of employees, so as to cut down the overhead cost of doing business. The financial health of the Public Market and Slaughterhouse is bankrupt to a point that public funds in the millions have to be used to support the deficit year and year out.

Consequently, the public market is being subsidized from the municipal general fund in the amount of PhP7, 658.152.99 for year 2009 and the first half of 2010 in the amount of PhP1, 567,655.91. No wonder, the municipal government is always short of money; always ask for financial assistance from the Governor, Congressmen, senators and various executive departments to fund municipal projects. The municipal government is dependent of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) in the amount of PhP60, 531,204.00, more or less, a year from the national government to support local projects. Because of the above, plus the millions that are being pocketed by corrupt official and cannot be accounted for, the municipal government is poor but well paid municipal employees.

MUNICIPAL TOWN MARKET

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Taon taon ay nalulugi ang palengke ayun sa ulat ng Accounting Office, sa taon ng 2009 ay nagpapalual ang municipio galing sa General Fund ng P7,658,152.99 (Seven million six hundred fifty-eight thousand and 99 centavos) at sa unang anim na buan ng 2010 sa halagang PhP1,567,655.91. Masasabi ng iba na dahil sa ang mga namamahala ay wala sa kanilang isipan o pagisipan at gumawa ng paraan para hindi malugi taon taon. Palibhasay ang nasa isipan ng management at mga empliado ay ginagawa lamanag ang kanilang trabaho araw araw, umulan o umaraw, at wala naman nagpapaliwanag kung nalulugi o hindi at pinagaaralan e adjust iyong mga taripa. Sa mga emplyado trabaho lamang. Hindi sila nababahala, dahil sa hindi naman nangagaling sa kanilang bulsa.

PROPOSAL:

The Municipal Development Council and the Investment and Employment Incentive Committee, in consultation with a professional urban planner, are encourage to conduct a feasibility study to replace the Municipal Public Market by a consortium of private investor under the PPA or BOT program.

The advantage I see:

1. The public will be able to buy quality household appliances, local and imported produce and sanitary wares in a modern supermarket.
2. The private business will be able to absorb the municipal employees laid off, saving the millions of pesos of salary and fringe benefit to the municipality.
3. The municipality will be able to save the subsidy money in the millions every year.
4. To provide employment opportunity to our local citizens
5. Bring additional revenue to our general funds.

Imagine this scenario: if the public market building and the land, is either leased or outsourced to a private investor and build a modern building or rehabilitating the current building, hosting a professionally managed supermarket as an anchor, private/commercial concessionaires, such as bank, hardware store, barber shop, beauty parlor, drug store, household appliances store, restaurant and fast food such as Jollibee, our town will become a magnet for the local and neighboring people to come and shop. Tax revenues will accelerate from businesses.

The savings will be able to finance municipal public works project, the proposed renovation of the municipal building, maintain other building satellite, finance a modern Fire Station, Police Substation and Mobile Health Clinic and improve the delivery of basic services in the municipality.

The above is my proposal... what is yours. I urge the Chief Executive to host a town forum and invite the members of the Development Council, members of the Investment and Employment Incentive Committee, town professionals, business people, and solicit their comments and suggestions. To the people, this is your town, do your part and participate, be a part of the nation building. To the management, hear, listen and decide what and which to adopt for the common welfare of the people.

