

First Multi-Mission, Accomplished!

The first Joint Multi-Mission to Marinduque hailed by Marinduque officials as a great service to kababayans.

By: Rey J. Muhi, MESA

They flew to Marinduque with their crates and baggages, they chatted with smiles, not a sign of weariness, they were the volunteers of the MIEC- the doctors, nurses, business persons, and educators, whose intentions were genuinely pure to help Marinduqueños.

I have now the obligation to put together what had transpired during the mission so that you can feel this incredible "show of love" vis-a-vis people of Marinduque. What had happened in the province during the most touching moment and hectic days of their lives. To the missioners - I'll say BRAVO!

I wanted to hear the good news (and also the not so good ones) "right from the horses' mouth." So, off we flew (Steve and I) to California on Friday, February 28, 1997 for a meeting at Dr. & Mrs. Hector Sulits' residence. We came back home, the following Monday, March 3.

Attendees were: Flo & Agnes Apeles, Dr. & Mrs. Jose Lopes, Bong Salvo, siblings Romy and

Enriqueta Ledesma, Atty. & Mrs. Manny Manguera, and from Northern Calif. were Edgar Alandy, Manny Nuñez and Larry Fausto. The meeting went for five hours that day and for two hours summarizing it, the next morning with Steve, Hector, and myself. We stayed at Hector and Paz beautiful and warm abode. Thanks for the hospitality.

Here's my observation of the mission and according to my reliable source. Patients showed up at the Marinduque Provincial Hospital and at the Sta. Cruz District Hospital in hundreds to avail of the free services and medicines of the MIEC medical mission. Viewing the unedited tape sent by MIEC Treasurer, Ching Jao-Manalo, the Gasan and Balanacan welcomers were incredibly amazing especially those adorable and talented young stars whose awesome performance captured everybody's hearts here in the U.S.

Congratulations to the creative and artistic abilities of the behind the scene mentors i.e. the director and choreographer. The play resulted in a spectacular show that really touched a lot of souls.

Thanks to Governor Antonio Carrion and the Provincial Board Members and government personnel, likewise to the Provincial and District Hospitals' medical personnel led by Dr. Efen Labay and Dr. Thelma Principe.

From the airport, to the prairie, to the ocean and port of Balanacan, everywhere the volunteers went, the Phil. National Police provided security to the mission participants. A million thanks to PNP Chief, General Recaredo Sarmiento, Colonel George Aliño and the police escorts. I salute you all.

Outpouring of love can be felt from both sides of the party. As Mrs. Paz Sulit said:

"The whole Marinduque participated and showed their hospitalities and love for returning kababayans."

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RoundAbout



Marinduque
Association of
Northern California
(MANC)

By Edgar Alandy

The herculean task of reaching out a joint medical, educational, and economic mission to our roots was greatly accomplished by the group headed by Dr. Hector Sulit. The services to our poor and indigent kababayans entailed self-sacrifice in terms of personal comfort, as well as financial rendered by the US-based Marinduqueños.

The volunteers did not come like conquering heroes. It was more of a homecoming a touching scene to most members of the team whose teary-eyed reminisce those days of their lives spent in the old country. Welcome back and congratulations for a job well done.

From this part of the West Coast, the MANC strives to continue its "Eye-glasses Project" to provide reading as well as corrective eyeglasses to those needy but deserving individuals who could not afford the cost.

Also, an on-going collection of books for our province is undertaken by Lita Alandy to be sent in the immediate future.

The donation of medicine solicited from the United Filipino Foundation by our secretary, Miriam Borlaza has been gratefully acknowledged with the fervent hope that the MANC cash donation of \$3,000 to the Joint Mission, helped in some way to defray the groups' expenditures.

Raising funds for MANC projects will be realized if the majority of members join the Reno Trip on March 1, 1997 - a project initiated by MANC Pres. Larry Riformo.

Kudos to MANC advisor, Andre Belarmino and to his one-and-only Herminia, for having been chosen "Citizen of the Year" by the Daly City Council of Daly City. The award presentation caught the couple by surprise when it was announced in the presence of the member of the community representing various sectors of the city. Andre is currently a commissioner of the Commission of Aging in San Mateo County and the over-all chairperson of this year's festivities of the Daly City, Quezon City, Phils. Sister City Committee, where he served as the immediate past president.

The Belarmino's are active participants of the Filipino American Democratic Club of San Mateo County. The couple was invited to the 53rd Presidential Inauguration as recognition of their socio-political and community involvement. Andre and Minyang attended the inaugural ball and the Inaugural Parade of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore in Washington, DC.

On the bright side of politics, Pete Rey again throwing his hat in the political arena - running for a council seat in Vallejo, California. Pete will participate in a Filipino convention on March 15 to choose the standard bearer for the '97 local election in Vallejo, a city of 30% Filipino resident.

Pete retired as Master Chief Storekeeper (E-9) from the US Navy and was a Logistics Management Specialist. †

Annoucement!

His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal, Archbishop of Cebu, Philippines, will officiate a concelebrated mass at the Blue Army Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Washington, NJ on July 27, 1997. Everyone is invited to come and greet our very own kababayan from Mogpog, Marinduque.

A welcome reception will be given for His Eminence on July 25, Friday, 8pm-1am at the Landmark Inn, Route 1/9 North, Woodbridge, New Jersey. For information: Call Steve Sosa at (908) 574-0417. †

Capital News

By: Celso Mataac
Cugie dela Santa

The Marinduqueño Association of the Capital Area (MACA)

congratulates those who made the Marinduque Mission a success. MACA is looking forward for the next mission where members have committed their support and certain members have planned to join.

In the November 1996 issue, we have reported that the "Feed the Hungry" group of volunteers from the Washington, DC area went to Marinduque to distribute goods to the victims of typhoon Rosing. They also donated "bobo" or baklad for fishing and weaving machines for its newly created projects in Torrijos. On January 1997, the same group went back to Marinduque to assess the status of the said projects. They were impressed with the outcome of these projects and decided to grant another funding for a "hatchery project" in Sta. Cruz. In addition, due to the Marcopper disaster, the group granted funds for the installation of several artesian wells in the affected barrios along the Boac River.

We will keep you posted with the status of these projects on the next issue. The "Feed The Hungry" organization members came from various associations in the US totally committed to help unfortunate people especially in the Philippines. Through the Marinduque Association of the Capital Area's interaction with this prestigious organization, the venue to Marinduque was made possible. Celso Mataac was elected Chairman of the Board of the Philippine American Foundation for Charities, Inc. of which the Feed The Hungry group is one of its members.

With regards to MACA's activities, the last several months were very hectic. Our Christmas Party was a success. The affair was overbooked to the extent that at the last minute, we decided to rent an extra ballroom and hire another Dee-Jay to accommodate our guests. We had our raffle with the "Putong" as grand prize. It was particularly enjoyed by the winners who are from a foreign country. Our curious friends want to experience the famous tradition of the Marinduqueños, that's why our raffle tickets were sold out right away.

We also raised funds by playing the "lagay-lagay" and other games. We already have set a date for the next Christmas party in a much bigger place. MACA also held its first Valentine party which is as successful as the Christmas party. The impressive decorations were undertaken by our youth group.

We are busy planning for the summer activities which includes the Marinduque International convention in New Jersey this coming August. We hope to see you here in Washington, DC. All MACA members will be happy to make your trip here in our city a memorable one. |

In Retrospect

By Macrine J. Katague (MACA)

We would like to share with you our experience during our recent trip to Marinduque. At the airport in Gasan, a man approached me and reintroduced himself to us. We had met him before at the Marinduqueños Christmas Party in Maryland. "Of course", I said, you are Pablito Alarcon - the representative from Feed The Hungry in the metropolitan DC area.

This organization is composed of Filipinos working for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

This is Pablitos' second trip to Marinduque. He and his wife, Tessie Calderon came to Marinduque last year to distribute aid and staple to the people after the typhoon devastation. Our province was included as recipient of aid they distribute in selected places in the Philippines, because the Mataac's are one of their sponsors. The Marinduqueños of Greater Washington, DC., donated whatever little we can to the Feed the Hungry organization. He wanted Dave and me to join him is selecting the Barangay or Sitio that deserves the help. From him, we learned that last year. Feed the Hungry bought the staples that they distributed locally. They also donated seed money to help fund a weaving cooperative group in Torrijos.

The money is administered by a local bank. The cooperative organization borrows the money and pay interest (low) and this money is in turn re-lend to other cooperatives. They make woven place maters, sold in Manila and other places. We in Maryland had the opportunity to buy some of the samples that Tessie brought back from their trip. As of January this cooperative group has paid five installments off their loan. (Do not think that borrower can

skip payment, other cooperative organizations are watching them as it will be their turn to borrow the next available capital) So Dave and I accompanied Pablito in identifying the barrio that most need the aid. |

WATER RESOURCE PROJECT

aka: ARTESIAN WELLS

Together with the representative from the Commission of Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and two social workers, we visited 12 barangay sites. As a result we identified five possible beneficiaries: Malitao in Buenavista, Kaigangan - Barrio Potat also in Buenavista, Boganvilla and Laon in Mogpog, and Bonliw in Torrijos. There were 41 others, but the budget is limited. My admiration goes to Barrio Ipil in Boac. Their water resource is halfway finished, the community contributed initial funds from the monies that they had received from Marcopper.

They also have a plan to make each household pay monthly to help in maintaining the facility. In one community that don't potable water that we had visited, people have to bring water containers to their work locations and fills it up with potable water from the town.

Being a healthcare provider, this is a project of need that touches my heart. Basic human need is:

WATER-HEALTH-CONTENTMENT-WEALTH

The Torrijos Loom Weavers Cooperative has requested for additional funding to cope with increase demand of their products. Torrijos also has presented a new cooperative project. It is for a feed mill. There is a 2.5 ton market demand for "poultry feeds" locally.

WATER-HEALTH cont'd.

Feeds used in Marinduque still comes from other provinces. This project has the prospect of generating additional jobs, not only



Water Resource Assessment group in front of partly finished water tank in Barrio Ipil (Boac). Above are L to R, two government social workers, Dave & Macrine, two CFO Rep. and taller person is Pablito Alarcon from the Feed The Hungry group of Washington, DC.

For the mills but also in the planting of corn and soya which the mill will process.
REQUIRED FUNDING: \$10,000.00.

We also went to the Trade School, now called Marinduque State College. The representative from the Commission on Filipino Overseas talked to the Dean. Yes, scholarships are much needed. Endowment funds are established. The money you donate will be placed in a special endowment fund. The capital is not touched.

How are the monies handled?
Money donated to Feed The Hungry with special emphasis for specific projects. How do we know it goes to the deserving project or persons?

The Feed The Hungry works in partnership with the Commission on

Filipinos Overseas (CFO) under the Department of Finance.



Representative of Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) conducts its gift giving project in Sta. Cruz.

Their objective is to provide inland transportation, manpower, research, monitoring and advice. They will identify if need is legitimate. They will correspond with school officials and deserving students will be asked to apply. All the organization will do is to provide the money. The Feed the Hungry and the CFO's volunteer airfares and accommodations come from their own pockets. I highly admire Pablito and Tessie for what they are doing. Their jobs are not finished after they come back from the Philippines. No... it begins all over again. They have to attend organization meetings to sell their project to other people and ask for donation.

Visiting the Barangay barrios was a very interesting experience. Our kababayan needs help in obtaining their basic needs and livelihood. I wish I could provide an artesian well for each and every barangay that needs it. COULD WE?

I keep asking myself why vegetables in Marinduque still comes from Manila or Lucena? Suddenly it hit me. How can they.. How can the people grow and water plants when they don't even have water to drink. KABABAYAN, THEY NEED OUR HELP. |

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



By Hector L. Sulit, M.D.

"The problems that were encountered (during the mission) are not insurmountable and should not deter Marinduqueños from their desire to help."

Preparation for the whole mission began in the U.S. a year prior to the actual arrival of the Medical, Business, and Education Teams in Marinduque. The Medical Mission had a distinct agenda: To deliver free medical care to the underserved people of Marinduque during the mission period. Efforts were initiated to coordinate the plans for the medical mission through numerous communications with the Marinduque provincial government and the Provincial Health Office.

Although the Medical Team was led by U.S. based doctors who were original Marinduqueños, the group was augmented by a large number of visiting medical personnel who are not from the province. There were people from the Philippine National Police Medical Corp, the Philippine General Hospital, the groups from Michigan led by Dr. Maime Aragonés and from North Carolina organized by Dr. Godofredo Ng, and a lone lady eye doctor from Florida, Dr. Caridad I. Santos. Thirty-five of the 57 total mission delegates worked with the medical mission side by side with the personnel of the hospital in Boac at the Marinduque Provincial Hospital led by Dr. Efrén Labay.

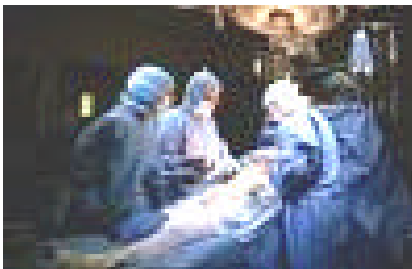
CHAIRMAN'S Report cont'd.

A smaller medical group proceeded to work at the Sta. Cruz District Hospital together with its staff under Dr. Thelma Principe.

The provincial government of Marinduque under Gov. Antonio Carrion extended magnificent cooperation to the visiting teams.

The advance party arrived by plane in Marinduque on December 13, 1996. They conducted the courtesy visits to the Governor's office and the Provincial Board who were in session that morning. Preliminary visits were conducted to prepare the medical mission sites at the Marinduque Provincial Hospital and at the Sta. Cruz District Hospital, as well as a side visit to the Torrijos Municipal Hospital. The larger segment of the whole mission arrive on Saturday, December 14, 1996 via Dalahican, Quezon by an airconditioned bus and a 6x6 truck for their cargoes, courtesy of the Philippine National Police that was organized by General Recaredo Sarmiento and Colonel George Aliño.

They then boarded the sleek, fast passenger boat from Dalahican to Balanacan, where they were met by a welcome committee from Boac and Mogpog.



The Medical Team worked at the Marinduque Provincial Hospital for 3 days then a smaller sized team proceeded to the Sta. Cruz District Hospital to continue the medical clinics for 1-1/2 days. The free

clinics were inundated by hundreds of orderly and clean patients who were eager to be seen by the medical team. The patients came from all over Marinduque but were mostly from the vicinity of the towns where the hospitals are located. Medical consultations and dispensing of medicines whenever appropriate were running simultaneously with the busy activities of the surgeons and dentists in the operating rooms and dental suites.

The mission brought all of the medical and surgical supplies that were utilized except for a limited quantity of anesthetic agents that had to be purchased from local pharmacies in Boac. The visiting medical team worked long hours side by side with efficient and pleasant medical personnel of the two hospitals. The eyeglasses that were entrusted to the members of the Marinduque Optometric Association which included Dr. Nori Solomon, Dr. Miriam Arevalo, Dr. Donna Arevalo, and Dr. Romulo Recalde. They will sort out and classify the eyeglasses which will then be given to indigent patients whom they will see or referred by Dr. Maria Coll.

One significant and unfortunate development during the mission was the problem at the Bureau of Customs in Manila. In spite of all the compliance with the advice about the requirements on donated materials, the Customs demanded a certificate of tax exemption for the medical supplies and equipment that were already donated to a tax-exempt NGO Marinducare Foundation, Inc.

The 21 unaccompanied luggages that were sent through air cargo were held at the Customs warehouse pending the issuance of the tax exemption which was never obtained even after the medical mission was over. The proper papers have been submitted by Atty. Augusto Hidalgo,

Jr. and assistance was requested from Gen. Sarmiento and Gen. Alexander Aguirre's Presidential Staff Office to follow-up the tax exemption approval, which has not been released to this date. There were 4 luggages that contained surgical microscopes and autoclave sterilizers that I (Hector) was able to get released from the Customs after almost 2 days of grueling personal presence at their offices. Several Customs personnel explained the procedures to follow in order for donations to be released from their premises. Hopefully, the remaining Seventeen (17) luggages will be released soon from the Customs warehouse because the storage fee will keep mounting. An accounting of all expenses incurred for the preparation and conduct of the Marinduque mission up to the time of release of the luggages from the Customs will be submitted. The Marinduque Mission '96 was pleasant and gratifying overall, but there are wisdoms learned that could guide future plans for assisting our province.

The problems that were encountered are not insurmountable and should not deter Marinduqueños from their desire to help. †

MY EYES, MY HEART



By Ching Jao-Manalo

The bags were packed, the last rope on many balikbayan boxes tightened, the final interstate follow-up calls were made and eastward we flew on different days but with one goal in our minds ... to make this first MIEC "Mission of Love" a truly memorable one.

MY EYES, MY HEART cont'd.

Usual and unusual travel woes beset us. Lost baggages, delayed flights, unplanned overnight lay-overs, customs third degree, impounded equipments, and baggage check-in dramas gave added meaning to the whole volunteer process.

I had great plans of making it at Boac in time for the December 8 fiesta celebrations. However, our Korean stopover took 2 days instead of the usual 5 hours, so I had to settle with attending the fiesta of Bulacan instead. A side trip to the Taal Vista Lodge and its spectacular view more than compensated for the missed opportunity.

DECEMBER 16, 1996
Monday

The whole hospital is inundated with patients, mission participants, media people, family friends and government representatives. We are grateful for the Sunday dry run as we set up shop in our designated places.

The surgical teams were in full force with four (4) operations going on at the same time. The hallway by the operating room was lined by patients sitting on chairs with IV fluids and antibiotics running pre-operatively.

The dental team had a very orderly system going as one set of dentist's numb mouths and another drilled, pulled or filled under the watchful eye of Art.

Consumption of water and soda reached its peak by 11 am. and Ching had to send out for several cases of bottled H2O pop and ice for distribution. The most major catastrophe was our inability to find another can of diet coke for Freddie. The MIEC T-shirt is now a collector's item.

In the afternoon, Ching, Ben and Remy, Paz, Brian Allen and Eugene Cascarelli attended a meeting to discuss the education issues of the

province with a representative group of educators. Dr. Libas, Superintendent of Schools gave a no nonsense status report on the quality of educators and the abilities of our students. There is a need to develop teaching modules that is specific to the needs, environment, background and unique variables of Marinduque pupils. She said, we have teachers trained to develop these modules but the financing is not available. She is also concerned about the very low reading levels of our pupils and the questionable abilities of some of our teachers. We received wish lists from the teachers in this forum and we told them that we will bring these lists back to or different associations for action. Every school asks for electronic teaching tools i.e. TV, VCR's, projectors, computers, etc.

I do wonder, how can the children benefit from teaching programs if they can't read?

Our first of many "putong" was given by the teachers. We were given a tour of Marinduque National High School by the principal, Ms. Sajo. It gave me goose bumps standing upon the very stage where I delivered my valedictory address, 39 years ago. That night, after dinner, all mission participants were given the traditional "putong" celebration by the Murallon Ladies. Then it was dancing and a tango exhibition by Rudy and Tessie Jao. It was a tiring day but what a satisfying day. †

DECEMBER 17, 1996
Tuesday

Mission members signed up to visit Elephant Island or go on a tour of the island with special side trip to the Marcopper disaster site. I opted to stay back to visit with a classmate who I have not seen since high school. However, a visit at the hospital found more patients waiting so we set up a mini-dispense medications.

Dr. Ernesto Milambiling made up for lost time by doing consultations and even giving money to patients who could not buy the drugs that he was prescribing. The surgical team came back early so they could finish many more waiting cases in the afternoon. Governor Bong Carrion gave a reception at his residence for any available mission members. Missioners went to a gala performance of an original docu-drama ballet at the capitol plaza performed by local students and choreographed by local talents. Very impressive!
Local Rotarians also had a raucous reception for their peers. †

DECEMBER 18, 1996
Wednesday

We saw 24 members of the mission leave for Manila. Remaining members checked out from all venues loaded up the bus for the trip to Santa Cruz.

We enjoyed boiled sweet "saba", langka, and suman on the way. In Mogpog, we stopped to watch a Christmas procession of colorful floats and innovatively decorated tricycles. Sixteen mission members checked in at the Hotel Santa Cruz owned by Mayor Willie Red. Hector, the 2 Rudys, Enrie Ledesma, and Art Hernandez, immediately started to treat and prescribe and dispense medications for a long line of patients. Ching, Paz, Carmelo, Carmen, Ben and Remy met with educators to hear their needs and discuss issues dealing with the teaching process.

We were pleasantly surprised by the entertainment we received from the pupils and the obvious pride of their teachers. Here, I sensed a true commitment to teaching and a realistic view of the future of each child. It was most refreshing to hear requests for carpentry tools, manicure sets, sewing machines, lawn mowers that will be used to

MY EYES, MY HEART cont'd.

train students for a trade after high school.

The last 3 members of the PNP team left us. Ching has been distributing certificates of recognition as each team member departs but soon ran out of blank certificates.

Kagawad Norma Ricohermoso took us under her wings and made sure that we did not go hungry.

We thoroughly enjoyed the many native delicacies that she whipped up from her kitchen. †

DECEMBER 19, 1996 Thursday

We continued treating patients at the hospital. We are running low on supplies and medicine. Hector and Dr. Maria Coll did several eye cases. Rudy Jao ceremoniously gave his Litman stethoscope to Dr. Thelma Principe, hospital director. Ching gave hers and a blood pressure manometer to the school nurse.

Ben & Remy Magahis, Carmen Fernandez and son Carmelo met with businessmen at the Blue Sea Resort to discuss the economic issues facing the island. Paz Sulit and Ching met with Sta. Cruz Vice-Mayor and was given a detailed history of the Marcopper disaster and the current status of the many claims. Of major concern is the perceived plan of one of the stockholders to relinquish ties with the mining company, thus making it more difficult to get the financing necessary to rejuvenate the areas sullied by the disaster and provide compensation for the people whose livelihood was destroyed by the spillage.

The 2 Rudys (Jao & Mercader) and Ching left early to attend a wedding. They took a side trip to visit the Marinduque High School so Ching could present a \$1,000.00 check from Freddie Ng to the principal, Ms.

Sajo. This will go toward a deserving student scholar and an outstanding teacher. We were caught in loud and happy crowd of students partying before Christmas break. We drew wild cheering and applause when we gave our donations to their version of "lagay-lagay". It sure brought back very pleasant memories of our high school days, eons ago.

Congresswoman Carmencita O. Reyes hosted a dinner party at her residence for the remaining members of the mission. The mission officially ended.

I was impressed by the level of cooperation and assistance given by the hospital staff, particularly the surgical department. They stayed with the operating team 'till all procedures are done. Kudos to all of them.

Likewise, the organizers and coordinators, sp. Dada Lozano and Norma Lumitao had to contend with many egos and individual needs that demanded extraordinary patience and skill. We all came to give of our time, talents and treasure. We left with a sense of fulfillment, of having done something special. The Christmas spirit of giving surely was met by all of us. It was a pleasure to be a part of the mission. I look forward to being a part of the next. †

By Ching Jao-Manalo

IT'S ALL ON THE TABLE

By Al Molato

MESA will be hosting
the 3rd

Marinduque International Reunion on August 14-17, 1997. This will be one of the most memorable occasion of the Marinduqueños of the Eastern Seaboard of America and certainly for all kababayans who will attend the party.

We are making intense plans in preparation for this event. This expansion of activities does not mean we are abandoning our roots in the East Coast. Rather, like a tree, we are strengthening our capabilities by branching out and growing continuously. Everybody has a vital role in the growth of the rganization. Teamwork plays a big part on this occasion. You will provide continuous stream of energy and ideas that will keep this association vibrant. As we have seen, all six Marinduque associations have strong roots and stimulating opportunities for meaningful growth. Let's strive together in teams to develop concepts and ways to help our kababayans back home. Our final initiative is the develop-ment of the capacity to bring new quality projects and ideas on line.

Key results on several projects in place have one important factor in common: they are focused on socio-economic and educational improvement in the island. The requirement for change seems to be the most powerful social and economic force in our province today. But economic upliftment through industrialization has a big price to pay and we better watch out for that.

An article: "WATERY GRAVE" featured on OUTSIDE Magazine creates a horrifying detail of Boac river burying its ecosystem beneath a deep layer of muck. Dead people, dead fish and dying rivers - nearly 30 years of extraction of its mineral wealth has left Marinduque with the bad end of a bargain that the islanders themselves never stuck.

We have a pivotal role to play in this sea of change. We have an obligation to select the most effective alternatives from amongst the bewildering array of choices to effect changes in the most efficient manner. †

First Joint Multi-Mission to Marinduque

Business & Economic Forum

Agenda

A. Tourism Industry

B. Investment Opportunity

BLUE SEA RESORT

December 17, 1996 – Thursday

By: Mrs. Carmen Fernandez
M.A.S.C.

Tourism Industry

How To Promote It

How To Solve Current and Future Problems

- 1) Food Supplies
- 2) Peace and Order &
Traffic Congestion

Economic Region "Mimaropa"

(MINDORO, MARINDUQUE, ROMBLON,
PALAWAN)

By: Carmelo Fernandez
M.A.S.C.

PURPOSE

- To facilitate a speedy development of business and tourism of the provinces mentioned above.

They will be concentrating more on agricultural products, fishing and poultry and other related food products that will maintain steady supply of foods for the entire country, or the,

CALABARZON AREA

(Cavite, Laguna, Batangas & Rizal Zones)

ADDED BUSINESS NEWS

- Marinduque Marble Company (amount of 1 plant is about 2.5 million pesos) located in Guisan, close to Balanacan has 280 hectares of mining claims.
- Black Marble company in Gasan.

Tourism

1. Food Supplies

To promote tourism industry through "INTERNET" (Information Superhighway) Creative use of continuous advertisement through different media i.e. radio, television, and newspaper.

To encourage more farmers and fishermen to produce poultry products and seafood supplies.

To teach and encourage fishermen how to raise or culture clams, oyster, crabs and other seafood products.

To encourage fishermen and farmers to attend meetings, seminars and trainings given by government entities.

Educate them about the hazard of dynamite fishing that destroy all sort of marine life but also its habitat, not to mention that it is illegal.

2. Peace and Order

To improve policing techniques and modernize communication and transportation equipments.

Investment Opportunity

Resort Development

To encourage local and foreign investors in the development of hotels and restaurants.

- Fil-Estate Real Estate Development had invested \$280 million in the development of Balanacan, Natangco, Sayaw and nearby barrios.

Project is on-going and land sales is skyrocketing.

- Fil-Estate needs 250 hectares according to information. Almost 50% of land was already acquired according to some reliable source.

- An 18-hole golf course is to be developed.

Retirement Houses or Hotels

-To encourage more investors in the development of retirement homes and hotels.

- To encourage more Marinduquenos Senior Citizens in the U.S. to come home and retire in the province.

Coconut Oil Mills

- Biotech, a Manila-base company, is planning to invest 40 million pesos on coconut oil mills. All coconut harvest will be processed locally from its meat to its husks and coconut shells. No pollution and environmental hazards involved.

- Finish product will be exported and sold in international market.

Value Aqua

- A Manila-based company is willing to invest millions of pesos in the production of different species of fish, preservation included.

Summary: *Medical & Surgical Procedures*

December 14 – 19, 1996

Marinduque Provincial Hospital & Sta. Cruz District Hospital

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL PROCEDURES AT THE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL

Total number of consultations = 924
 Total number of surgeries = 97
 Total number of dental patients = 192 = 192

Total number of adult patients = 757
 Total number of pediatric patients = 167

SUMMARY OF SURGICAL PROCEDURES AT STA. CRUZ DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Cataract = 3
 Pterygium = 8
 Electrocautery Chalazion = 1
 Excision of Right Eye = 1
Total = 13

Note: *In addition to the 924 total number of consultations, there were about 50 patients treated at MPH and entered in a missing list*

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS BY TOWN

TOWN	DEC 14	DEC 15	DEC 16	DEC 17	DEC 18 & 19	TOTAL
Boac =	57	193	179	73	3 =	505
B'vista =	6	14	3	3	4 =	30
Gasan =	11	38	5	5	0 =	69
Mogpog =	11	25	4	4	0 =	52
Sta. Cruz =	0	0	5	5	248 =	253
Torrijos =	1	2	0	0	12 =	15
Total =	86	272	209	90	267	924

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL CONSULTATION BY DOCTORS AT MARINDUQUE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL

DOCTOR	DEC 14	DEC 15	DEC 16	DEC 17	TOTAL
Ancheta =	0	22	21	27	70
Jao =	0	35	92	0	127
Labay =	1	0	1	4	6
Maria Coll =	46	27	17	0	90
Marquez =	0	1	0	0	1
Mercader =	0	0	2	0	2
Mercado =	0	0	6	0	6
Milambiling =	0	0	0	59	59
Ng =	4	2	0	0	6
Opiniano =	0	148	8	0	156
Osmilio =	2	0	0	0	2
Raymunundo =	0	0	30	0	30
Rivares =	21	0	0	0	21
Sulit =	5	35	32	0	72
Yu =	7	2	0	0	9
TOTAL	86	272	209	90	657

Marinduque International, Inc.

To hold its Bi-Annual Reunion at San Francisco on August 13-14, 1999

Millennium Reunion is the central theme of the 4th Marinduque International Reunion scheduled on August 13 – 14, 1999 at San Francisco, California and will be hosted by the Marinduque Association of Northern California (MANC).

Preparations are underway for these two-day festivities expected to have a heavy turn out of participants from the United States and Canada according to Andre Belarmino, MANC new President.

Friday, the 13th of August, 1999 will be a fun-filled, all-day picnic as the host association await for the arrival of delegations who are former residents of the six towns of Marinduque and who are mostly settled in the Western Hemisphere. Delegates from the different Marinduque associations will convene on August 14 to formulate activities and re-evaluate priorities geared towards the social and political directions of the next millennium.

The "Millennium Reunion" will culminate with a Gala Dinner-Ball on August 14 designed to generate funds for future socio-medical mission in keeping up with the goals and objectives of the Marinduque International Executive Council.

"Putong", a distinct Marinduque tradition, a cultural sing and dance ritual honoring a person chosen and considered befitting of such honor, is one of the



highlights of the festivities. Elisa Orlina-Howard, along with selected ladies from the province, will lead the participants in presenting the significance and social relevance of "Putong" as a separate and distinct manner of bestowing prestige and honor.

Reunion chair, Andre Belarmino announced that MANC will make special arrangements with certain hotels to make the reunion within the reasonable level of affordable costs. Member organizations will be notified on the special accommodation rates.

The "Millennium Reunion" is expected to become a historically, well-attended function in the face of the social, educational, and political challenges offered by the next millennium. For details of the event, please call Andre Belarmino at (650)878-5707 or send email to: didong@ix.netcom.com



Councilman,
Pete Rey

MARINDUQUEÑO WON COUNCIL SEAT

Marinduqueños should be proud of one of their province mates won a seat in the City Council of Vallejo, Northern California last November 1997. He holds the distinction of being the first Marinduqueño to be elected in the United States. His name is PETRONILO REY known as Pete among his friends and acquaintances in this country, but Nilo in his birthplace, Barangay Cabuyo, town of Torrijos. In 1958, after graduating from the town's high school – Our Mother of Perpetual Help Academy, he came to the United States as an enlisted member of the US Navy. He retired from active naval service in 1982 with the rank of Master Chief Storekeeper (E-9). Since January 1983, he worked for the US Navy as a civilian supervisor.

Pete Rey has lived in Vallejo for 19 years with his wife, Pat and two children, Lissa and Danny.

Before trying his luck in the political arena, Pete devoted his time to community service and served the City of Vallejo as an active member of various Boards and Commissions. He is a member of many organizations in the area.

The road to victory was a tough one for Pete and his supporters because 12 candidates were vying for 3 seats in the City Council. To make matters worse, 4 of them were Filipinos. However, the rest is history. Pete finished second in a very close race.

All of us, Marinduqueños here and back home would like to congratulate Pete for his achievement and wish him a successful term. †

MARINDUQUE ASSOCIATION of Northern California (MANC)

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M.A.C.A. President, Recipient of the “BANAAG AWARD”

Celso Mataac, Jr. is the recipient of the “Banaag Award”, the Presidential Awards for Filipinos and Private Organizations Overseas. The award was institutionalized by virtue of Executive Order No. 498 on December 19, 1991. This awards system serves as continuing manifestation of the government’s appreciation of the many contributions of Filipinos and private organizations overseas in the development efforts of the country.

Celso, who is also currently the Chairman of the Marinduque International Executive Council, will attend the ceremony (together with his ever supportive wife Vilma, and children, Francis and Lisa) at Malacañang Palace on Friday, December 11, 1998.

Congratulations Celso! We, Marinduqueños are very proud of you and your accomplishments!

M.A.C.A. Annual Picnic

By Fred Leaña

The Marinduque Association of the Capital Area held its annual family picnic (potluck) at the Blackhill Regional Park, (Clarksburg) Germantown, Maryland on August 1, 1998, starting from 11 am ‘till sunset. Plenty of food was served but the favorite lechon, courtesy of the association. is the first to disappear.

About 40 members were present taking along with them their family and friends. Among them were Celso and Vilma Mataac with their cousin, Angie Tangi; Eddie Salcedo with his children, Bobby, Tina and Jojo, Manuel and Mariam Mataac with children, Marnie and Bongski,

Moy and Dahl Solomon with son Keith, Deo and Loida Sore and her sister was also present at the picnic. She always participates in the activities of the association, specially during Christmas caroling, a fundraiser of the association. Rolly and Eleanor Sabalbaro with their sons Roel and Jomar, their daughter, Myra with her husband John; Rene Magturo and Thelma Estrella, Bert and Myrna Sotto, Cugie and Terry dela Santa, Will and Vitching Monroyo with their sons Leo and Marlon, Jon-Jon and Ana Salcedo with their grandson and daughter Charlene, and Fred and Tessie Leaña. Present also were Dr. Manuel “Pong” and Pearl Sevilla. The group was honored with the attendance of the former Vice-Governor of Marinduque, Atty. Casiano Aloyon, With him were his daughter and grand-daughter. A short meeting after a sumptuous lunch. The agenda was about the association’s involvement to chair the 1999 Philippine Independence celebration and festivities. Most of the members actively participated giving their views and asked questions about the members’ participation on each committee.

The meeting adjourned with some volunteers signing up for different committees. †

MARINDUQUE ASSOCIATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA

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Wilfredo Monroyo – *Vice President*
Macrine Jambalos-Katague – *Secretary*
Eleanor Sabalbaro – *Corr. Secretary*
Benjamin “Moy” Solomon – *Treasurer*
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Fred Leaña
Deo Sore
Gil Sto. Domingo

Marinduqueño, receives Mississauga, (Canada) “Most Outstanding Citizen” Award By Erwin Generao



Atty. Rafael M. Buñag, who is fondly called Aping, has always gone the extra mile when it comes to helping the

community, wherever he resides.

His contributions to better the place, whether it be Manitoba, New Jersey, New York, or Ontario, are countless and his efforts haven't gone unheeded. The veteran community leader has been awarded recently the Most Outstanding Citizen Award by Mayor Hazel McCallion and City Council at a ceremony in the Mississauga City Hall. The awards are given to residents who have made an impact at the national or international level in a variety of activities spanning more than ten years.

Aping's community involvement covers two Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Ontario, and two states in the United States of America – New York and New Jersey, for over two decades dating back in 1975, when he got elected Vice President of the Philippine Association of Manitoba (PAM).

In 1983, the Buñag family transferred to New Jersey where Aping became the founding President of the Marinduqueños of the Eastern Seaboard of America (MESA) with emphasis on a project close to his heart, i.e. a scholarship program limited to poor but talented students who enroll at the then Marinduque School of Arts and Trades which later on was elevated to college status and renamed Marinduque State College. This scholarship program is still an ongoing undertaking of the MESA.

In 1989, the Buñag family settled in the City of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada where he became the

founding President of the Filipino Voters League of Canada whose mission is primarily to encourage people to become Canadian Citizens so they can participate more effectively in the electoral process in Canada.

At present, he serves as adviser to several organizations, like the Marinduque Cultural Society of Canada, the Silayan Volunteer Group of Mississauga, the Santacruzian Association, and the Journey of Youths Association and in the years, the Silver Lining Association and the Kalayaan Organization.

Aping has been nominated and endorsed by the Philippine Consulate General of Toronto for the 1998 Philippine Presidential Awards granted to the Most Outstanding Individuals and Private Organizations overseas.

Excerpt from a news clip written by Erwin Generao. Erwin is the husband of Monette Sto. Domingo.

MARINDUQUE CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (MCSC)

Through The Eyes of the Youth

By Mirabelle Barredo-Buñag

President
Journey of Youth (JOY)
Toronto Chapter

As I sit up in my room, I reminisce about the many events that took place at the Marinduque International Reunion hosted by MESA. Each day held significant events – A star was born from the sweet sounds presented to us in the form of a serenade by Melinda Mabiog-Davis, Lola Tina's masked dance, the male hula dancers, the Harana Troupe (the

serenaders) and the line dancing at the welcome party, the bonding that took place at the Liberty Park picnic, the dancing, the shower of photos taken left, right and centre, and the tears shed as we bid each other farewell at the formal dance.

Images continue to flood my mind; images of people smiling, laughing and having so much fun. I will always remember the abundance of food, jokes and stories that were shared. I received a letter from one of my newfound friends and a flood of tears rolled down my face –so many emotions were present that I found it hard to contain myself.

When I was asked to write an article on how I felt about the reunion, it was hard for me because I didn't know where to start.

Before I move on, I would like to acknowledge everyone who made this event possible. First and foremost, I would like to thank God for bringing us all together so that we could all participate in the activities and enjoy one another's company. Our parents, I feel, are next in line, for taking us with them to their reunion. A special thank you goes out to the Marinduque International Executive Council for creating the whole concept of holding a Marinduque International Reunion. Another special thank you goes out to the Marinduqueños of the Eastern Seaboard of America for hosting the 3rd Marinduque International Reunion.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank our host family friends for their warm hospitality. I would like also to thank the woman (who wishes to remain nameless) who brought all the teenagers at the Liberty State Park picnic together so we may meet and bond. I've made many lifelong friends. Thanks Mom! Last but not least I would like to thank all of you for the warm smiles and the friendly hellos that made to help this experience one that I will never forget.

MESALLANEWS
of the Marinduqueños of the
Eastern Seaboard of America

MESA held its Election of Officers at their annual picnic at Roosevelt Park, Edison, New Jersey. As usual, it was a potluck.

There were three meetings already held at AL's residence after the election. The transition looks good. Financial records were turned over already by Jess Alejandro to the new Treasurer, Jun Muhi.

The first MESA fundraising under the new admin was a trip to Atlantic City on November 8, 1998. More than \$300 was raised, enough to cover our share to this newsletter's printing expense.

Christmas is fast approaching – New York City is all set for the big holiday. New Jersey malls are getting crowded every weekends and MESA is also set for the season. A joyous Christmas party held at the Senior's Hall, New Brunswick, NJ on Dec. 5, 1998 was a big success.

Thelma Muñoz-Santos, the party chairperson has to be commended and of course her husband Tuts, for their efforts that made this party a success.

The party was blessed with a mass officiated by Msgr. Rey Nuñez.

The chilling performance of the Tanglaw Association of Long Island (New York) Choir sang the US and Philippine National Anthems which gave way to the opening program. Magician Joey Mogol (Mogpog) provided an awesome presentation of a coin penetrating a dollar bill, several card tricks and many more illusions right in front of the kids and our own eyes.

A beautiful song composed and sang by Melinda Mabiog Davis brought envy at the proud parents, Bob and Carmelita.

Santa *Carmeling* Claus entertained and distributed Christmas gifts to the kids who among others really enjoyed the evening. †



MESA Picnic

MESA new elected officers for the New Millennium are as follows:

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Treasurer: Manuel Muhi, Jr.
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Steve Sosa to MIEC
Tonih Apostol to Phil. Consulate

REPORTING FOR DUTY

As I begin this year at the helm of MESA, every word, every action and every image will be indelibly imprinted in my mind. I can conceive of no greater honor than to be elected by my peers and given the trust to lead MESA into the 21st century.

A Moggogeo, I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Mapua Institute of Technology. After migrating to the United States in 1975, I worked with series of private companies in the NY/NJ area for 10 years. In 1985, I joined my current employer, the Department of Defense, as a Quality Assurance Specialist, My tenure with the U.S. government has provided me an excellent opportunity to experience how large organizations succeed and how they solve problems that prevent it from achieving its goal.

MESA is an organization that brings together individuals for a common good. To ensure its continued success, I believe the following goals must be met.

1. Expand membership and participation in all MESA activities.
2. Create an atmosphere of open communication and tolerance
3. Renew our commitment and support as the advocates of our kababayans through the College Scholarship Project.

I am married to the former Martha Valena (Dietician) of Calauag, Quezon and have two children, Alma (Drew University Class of '94) and Adrian (Montclair State University, Class of '96).

Alfeo Molato, Jr. – President, MESA 2000

Dateline: CHICAGO
MARINDUQUE ASSOCIATION
OF CHICAGO, USA

MACUSA on the move

The Marinduque Association of Chicago has a wonderful season this year with president Rico Ricohermoso's first half of his term. As his Vice President (Rudy Rubio) says, "You have not seen anything yet"

The members went on a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois during the Holy Week. Going there on a chartered bus, members had a good time and they said that getting there was half the fun. (They occupied almost one floor of the Shrine Motel). They arrived in the morning of Good Friday and left after the Easter Mass which was held outdoors. On the way back, they stopped by the Lincoln house and the Lincoln tomb in Springfield, Illinois. On the trip back home, they transformed the bus into a mini-theater where some members did stand-up comedy after a brief meeting all inside the bus.

Then they had a Hawaiian dance in the spring, a very successful picnic in the summer and a very profitable fundraising trip to the casino.

Income from the casino trip was donated to the Liberty House in Manila managed by former member Rolly Nepomuceno. With the money they now have



Taken at downtown Chicago in June after the Philippine Centennial Parade. Seating: front row: L/R – Ben Magahis, Mauro Larracas, Rico Ricohermoso. Back row, L/R – PablingPalomares (morion 1), GlennLuz, Didia Ricoermoso, Lucy Logatoc Rubio, Remy Magahis, Ching Jao Manalo, Hedy Ponte-Sancho, Elsa Manguera-Ardales, Violeta Luz-Magsino, Lin Rejano and Joey Rejano (morion 2). Photo by: Rudy Rubio

in their coffers, they can respond to one town's request in Marinduque to have a waiting shed. But there are six towns in the province so they maybe able to have one built each town if plans do not miscarry. ||

MACUSA

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- Pete Nepomuceno

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Msgr. Rey Nuñez MESA

How do we explain this incredible celebration we call Christmas? What keeps it going year after year, century after century? For almost two thousand years, millions of people come together for the worldwide birthday celebration of a man named Jesus. Jesus has a name with a built-in meaning. It is the Greek version of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means "The Lord is Salvation, because God will save His people of their sins. He is also called Emmanuel, which means God Is With Us.

In other words, we are not alone in this vast universe. We have someone to trust other than just ourselves. It also means that we have something to trust other than violence to redeem the world. If I ever personally needed this affirmation, it is now. We have tried violence over and over again. In this century, the so called civilized nation have fought two world wars,

FOOD FOR THOUGHT cont'd.

not to mention numerous small wars. And look at what we have accomplished. All of the same problems are still with us. Fear and hatred still bestride the earth. Millions of people are still cold, hungry, homeless and hopeless. It is so evident that violent force is not the answer to our problems.

I am grateful for our Christian faith, because it is uniquely qualified to address that reality. On Christmas, we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the symbol of our faith is not a cradle, it is the cross of suffering love. God in Christ stood face to face with the world's violence and had nothing with which to counter it but love. That was His only weapon – love that remained love even when it was wounded. Would it be strange that a crucified man, dying in agony has convinced countless millions of people that God Is Love?

The saving work of Jesus is always moral and ethical in nature. He saved people of their sins. He changed their ways of living. How often people will assert that someone has done them harm, spoken against them or cheated them in some manner or another, and they cannot forgive them?

But Jesus came to reconcile us also to one another and the price paid was totally out of proportion. Can we, little man and woman not lay aside our pride and resentment, in order to pay their price of sincere reconciliation. Pope John II, when seriously wounded by a would-be assassin, forgave his assailant and wanted no charges brought against him. This is the true spirit of Jesus. This is the spirit of Christmas. On his birthday let us approach our Savior with love in our hear for all people.

Christ comes to each of us with an offer of forgiveness and friendship that will transform our character and enable us to live as he lived.

God's love is universal. It includes all people everywhere. If God loves everyone, and God loves you and me, then He must want you and me to love everyone. Love is the most powerful, the most permanent, the most redemptive force on earth. It is God's plan for redeeming the world. You and I can be a part of that by opening ourselves to His love, and then going out to love others as He loves us. And remember, we love you all very dearly. Merry Christmas and Holy, and Prosperous New Year. God Bless You and All Your Love Ones. |



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The MarinduqueNews International

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September 20, 1998

1997 – 1999

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PETE REY

Dear Friends,

The Marinduque Association of Northern California is hosting the 4th Marinduque International Reunion on August 13 & 14, 1999 at San Francisco California. We are now in the process of undertaking hotel reservations for this event, as well as the hotel accommodation for those who may desire to stay in the hotel.

We cordially invite you and your family, as well as your friends and acquaintances to join us in these festivities.

For some, this may require planning your vacation from work or business, to make this trip to California. So you might do so earlier.

There are many exciting places to visit in the Bay Area should you decide to extend your stay in San Francisco, like for instance, Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz Federal prison where Al Capon was confined, Lombard Street, the "crookedest" street in the world, the famous Golden Gate Bridge, better known as the hanging bridge, the renowned cable car, just to mention a few. Outside of San Francisco you may go to the wine country for wine tasting or visit Silicon Valley.

Indeed this event is not only for fund; rather it is geared towards building more cohesive ties and relations between our various organizations. It is also aimed at fostering camaraderie among our members and enhancing a caring and friendly environment among us.

We hope with great anticipation of your presence in this historic occasion. Please do not fail to come.

Thank you and my best personal regards to all.

Sincerely,
(Sgd) Andre P. Belarmino
President

