



CITY OF SURIGAO

# SLGR2016

STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

by: Hon. Ernesto T. Matugas  
City Mayor

*"An Tawo Una sa Tanan"*

1:30 P.M. | MARCH 17, 2016 | PROVINCIAL CONVENTION CENTER

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*this serves as an invitation*

# STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016

by: Hon. Ernesto T. Matugas  
City Mayor

*To our honored guests, Congressman Hon. Francisco T. Matugas, our lady Governor of the Province of Surigao del Norte, Hon. Sol F. Matugas, Vice Governor Hon. Arturo Carlos Egay, Jr. and all honorable members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, our City Vice Mayor Hon. Danilo C. Menor and all honorable members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, Municipal Mayors and their members of the Sangguniang Bayan, barangay captains of the 54 barangays of the city, heads and employees of the national government agencies, department heads of the city and the province, city and provincial employees, representatives of the civil society organizations and the private sector, friends, ladies and gentlemen, Good Afternoon!*

As part of the public disclosure and transparency policy of the city government, I am proud to stand before you once again to report on the accomplishments of our city in the past years. On top of the detailed written report which we will be submitting to the DILG in accordance with the requirement of the local government code, what I will be reporting to you now are comparative highlights of the city's accomplishments through the years.

Again, the accomplishments that we made remain a product of cooperation and synergy by the different departments of the city, the provincial government headed by Gov. Sol F. Matugas, the national line agencies, our business sector, civil society organizations, and most especially *an suporta sa ato mga opisyal sa katawhan sa 54 ka barangay nan ato syudad.*

## **Let me start with our ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNANCE.**

The Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) in 2015 passed a total of 450 legislative measures consisting of 11 Ordinances, 387 Resolutions, and 52 Appropriation Ordinances.

The measures passed spans a wide area of developmental undertaking including those that fall under Development Administration, Economic Development, Social Development, Environmental Management and Disaster Risk Reduction, and Infrastructure and Utilities Development.

Looking at the comparative performance in the previous years in terms of the number of ordinances passed, 111 was enacted from 2004-2007, 53 were made for the term 2007-2010, 65 between 2010-2013 and 31 for the current term as of December 2015.

Although the SP passed and authorized the executive branch on several measures, we could have gained further momentum in improving our services and providing adequate spaces for new mandatory offices created like the **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, business permit and licensing office, the City ENRO**, the newly-created Housing and Urban Development Office, and pushing for economic development initiatives if some of the strategic measures we have proposed were supported by majority of the opposition members of the city council.

On People Participation, the increase in the number of applications for accreditation by CSOs, NGOs and other People's Organizations serves as an indicator of the increased confidence of our civil society partners in the programs and initiatives of our local government. 13 more organizations were accredited in 2015 bringing to a total of 72 organizations accredited since July 2013. This is almost double the number of organizations registered in 2010 numbering only in the 38.

The Bottoms-Up Budgeting (BUB) which used to be a dream and only a strategic concept way back in previous national and local administrations now became a reality beginning 2013. No less than 294 projects worth P107 million funded by national government funds were accessed by our local government from 2013-2015. *Pero an mas importante sanan naka gana nan ini na pamaagi kay an ato mismo mga katawhan na mga miembro nan civil society organizations an nag identify sanan nag endorse sa ini na mga proyekto.*

We have also expanded this year the composition of the Local Finance Committee to include three (3) members from the CSOs.

For our Planning & Project Development Services, our strategic planning efforts remain up to par and competitive with other local governments. We were among the first to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Such trailblazing effort was recognized by the foreign donor community, fellow LGUs and the academic community, earning us invitations to share our experience in no less than two (2) prestigious gatherings last year 2015, namely:

- Earthquake and Megacities Initiative, and Asian Development Bank supported project on Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning for Naga City;

- 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN University Network, Regional Conference on Natural Disaster supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency and hosted by De La Salle University.

It is sad to note however that the implementing tool of the approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan which is the Zoning Ordinance is still pending for approval at the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

In terms of project proposals approved for external funding from either foreign assistance and/or national government funds, the total amount of project funds accessed is undeniably bigger compared to that of the previous years. Between 2007-2010 the total amount was more than P132 million, about P283 million from 2010-2013 and P205 million from 2013-2015 with another year still to go.

For our financial management, let me just boast about our income performance. During the onset of my first term, we have already brought the annual average income to more than half a billion pesos and under my current term, with still one year to go, our annual average income is already at P573 million. Last year 2015 showed that our total income is more than P634 million.

However, the increase may also be attributed to the increase in our IRA, so let us take a look at the performance of our income from local sources. For the same periods, the total local income from 2004-2010 is P847 million averaging P121 million per year. During my administration from 2010-2015, local income increased to P854 million averaging P142 million per year. Again we still have another full year to add to this performance.

When I started to assume office in 2010, the profitability rate of our local economic enterprises was at 17%, now we have increased this **almost 20%** last year and we could have earned more if facility improvements could have been pursued at no immediate cost to the city government through a public-private partnership **most commonly known as PPP**. Sad to say, *hangtud kuman ang amo* proposal for the PPP Code which we submitted last June 2015 is still pending with the SP.

It should also be noted that throughout my term, our cash position remains liquid and we have been consistently recognized with the Seal of Good Financial Housekeeping by the DILG. Unfortunately, we may lose this recognition this year for the delayed passage of our annual budget for 2016 when in fact we have already submitted the 2016 budget for approval last October 2015, but it was only acted and approved last February 2016 by the SP.

## For Human Resource Management

For human resources management, allow me to just show the comparative figures in terms of the number of authorized positions, the filled and vacant positions between 2009, before I assumed office, and the year ending 2015. In 2015, we already have 512 filled positions in the local government with 83 vacancies compared to the 474 filled positions and 116 vacancies in 2009. Most of the vacancies that remain are the ones left open by the 33 promotions granted last year and 17 more from those who were separated from service.

Even if I don't cite statistical figures, the fact would speak for itself that a lot of our employees experienced a career movement during my tenure which of course among others covers new appointments and promotions to personnel who were holding the same positions for more than 20 years.

**For our SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT services**, the Special Education Fund is our primary support to educational services. The comparative appropriations show that we have reached a high of P18.0 million last year from only a little over P12.0 million in year 2007 and only P8.0 million in 2010.

Our number of scholars also ballooned to 432 students last year from only 178 in 2007 and 266 in 2011. It is also noteworthy that we have already settled unpaid tuition balances amounting to millions of pesos when we assumed office in 2010.

Except for elementary drop-out rate, general improvements are visible in education performance indicators for both elementary and secondary levels like the participation, completion, drop-out and cohort survival rates for two comparative periods ending years 2010 and 2015.

What is consistent in the education sector is the never tiring support of our business community, the chambers of commerce, non-government and civil society organizations, the religious sector and other associations; Let us give them a round of applause for their continued and untiring support. And of course, we have sustained the winning ways of the City Schools Division in various regional, national and international competitions so let us give our teachers, administrators and school officials another round of applause.

Looking at the vital **health indicators** consisting of Infant Mortality, Under Five Mortality and Maternal Mortality, and comparing the average rates between 2004-2010 and that of 2010-2015, there is a slight increase on Infant and

Maternal Mortality rates of about 1.76 and 1.12 points respectively. The Under Five Years Mortality improved slightly.

Such increase can be attributed to the rapid increase in the number of births serviced by the seven (7) operating birthing homes beginning 2011. From only 249 recorded births in 2010, the number increased to more than 2,600 in 2015.

In the aspect of nutritional status of pre-school children, our combined efforts brought down malnutrition prevalence rate to 9% in 2015 coming from a high of 24% in 2004 and 11% in 2010 and we hope to still decrease this through the Integrated Community Food Production project funded by the National Anti-Poverty Commission which is due for implementation this year.

When I assumed office in 2010, our expenditures for social welfare services was **almost** P24 million. This has since then reached a high of P97 million in 2015 and averaged around P58 million per year for the period of 2011-2015.

We have sustained the implementation of our programs for youth welfare and development, elderly, early childhood care and development, PWDs, women and other vulnerable sectors. On top of these regular programs, we have likewise extended sustainable livelihood support in cooperation with some national agencies to the senior citizens, PWDs, and some urban poor associations allowing them to raise much needed capital for future project roll outs. Through our BUB projects, the senior citizens were provided tools and equipment by the Department of Labor and Employment for their fish processing facility. We can proudly say that our PWDs are now self-sustaining with their income generating projects, the consumer stores funded by DSWD and getting the proceeds of the sharing scheme developed by the City Government particularly in the Driving Course at our Livelihood Training and Productivity Center.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or popularly known as the 4Ps, is one of the major supports in the social contract of the Aquino administration in addressing the poverty situation in the country by investing in human capital. The City of Surigao is a recipient of the 4Ps since 2011 and this program has benefitted on the average almost 8,000 poor households each year with program funds transferred either over the counter or through the cash cards.

The Impact of the 4Ps is concretely manifested in the observed changes in behavior of the beneficiaries as demonstrated by an increase in the number of school enrollees from 92% to 96% and the 99% availment of basic health services such as pre-natal check-up, immunization and others. Furthermore, there has been a significant increase in the improved well-being of the Pantawid

beneficiaries from survival to subsistence thence to self-sufficiency, as a result of the various interventions provided by program partners. For two consecutive years, the city has been a recipient of the Gawad Paglilingkod Sa Sambayanan or GAPAS award in recognition of its administrative and logistical support to the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and Day Care Services.

We have likewise sustained and even improved the operations of our support facilities like the Residential Center for Street Children, Crisis Center for Women and Children, the Bahay Pag-Asa and the halfway home for victims of human trafficking.

We retained our Child Friendly City Status and in 2015, we received various awards in the implementation of Day Care Services, especially as Model LGU in program implementation and the Best Federation of Senior Citizens Association.

The operation of our TESDA registered Livelihood Training and Productivity Center has produced more than 1,000 in 2015 fully trained out of school youths, untrained adults including our Sr. Citizens and Persons with Disabilities, and 283 who passed the National Certification II assessment.

**On Housing and Resettlement**, the highlight of my administration's efforts in housing is the on-going development of the 7-hectare NHA-Surigao Countryhomes Socialized Housing project which is almost 30% complete. Another 24 hectares in Brgy. Balibayon has been acquired by the city and another 1.5 hectares socialized housing site in Brgy. Luna is currently being endorsed for SP authorization. It should be noted that the last concrete efforts made by the city in acquiring land and securing funds for housing development dated back to the mid 1990s.

Last year also saw the creation of the City Housing Board and the City Housing and Urban Development Office. We hope to provide this year and in the succeeding years the full staffing of this newly created local housing office so that enhanced focus and full time assignments would lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness.

**On Peace, Disaster Preparedness and Security**, Peace and Order indicators **showed that** the city PNP adopted a different method of recording system in 2010 which among others include crimes reported on the barangay level and not just those reported to the police stations. Comparatively, although there was a reduction in the crime volume in the last three (3) years with 1,321 crimes recorded last year, still this is way higher than the volume in 2010 and the years before that. The crime solution efficiency also improved to 24% in the last three

years but the average monthly crime rate remains relatively high at 72% per 100,000 people. Crime clearance also showed improvement to 30% in the last three years.

Our Emergency Response Services responded to a total of 3,203 emergency calls in 2015. Comparative data show that the average number per year for emergency runs between years 2010-2015 increased to **more** 3,000 compared to a little more than 2,000 annual average for the period 2006-2010. We have secured funding support from the DILG in the amount of **P6.0** million pesos for the construction of a dedicated Evacuation Center, but unfortunately, up to now, the authority from the SP for the acquisition of the site in Brgy. Luna remains pending.

**Let me now present the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT of the city.** Crop production from 2010-2016 showed a varying picture through the years. Traditional crops like palay showed a more or less steady production while corn exhibited an up and down trend. The shift to high value crops as among the primary agricultural policies of my administration has shown positive results with the stable production of banana and mangoes.

We have sustained all agricultural development support services like provision of pre- and post-harvest facilities, provision of seeds, planting materials, fertilizers and other livelihood support which amounted to **about** P93 million in 2015 coming from our own funds and external sources. We have also continued the provision of extension services, training and education, organizational development, marketing support and assistance to crop insurance among others.

**On Fisheries Development, the records of the** Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that our total fishery production in 2015 rebounded to increase by **almost 3%** from a recorded production decrease last year.

It should be noted that the operations of our Mariculture Park in Brgy. Nabago now covers 80 hectares with the entry of several investments in the recent years.

Several livelihood support project for fisheries were implemented last year which, among others, consist of provision of fishing paraphernalia, pumpboat dispersal, seaweeds farming, and fish culture. Our city was recognized by **the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources** as one of the top performers nationwide in our campaign for the registration of fisherfolks earning us a grant of P2.0 million for seaweeds and aqua-silviculture projects.

Our efforts in promoting responsible fishery practices remain on track and could have been given an added boost if the SP has already passed the Unified Fishery Ordinance which is a joint effort developed by our Hinatuan Passage Development Alliance. **By the way, this Hinatuan Passage Development Alliance is a coalition of our city with other seven municipalities – Malimono, San Francisco, Taganaan, Placer, Bacuag, Gigaquit and Claver because of a unified concern for the prudent management of our natural resources.**

For our Livestock Development, the provision of various veterinary support services consisting of, among others, animal health care and disease prevention, animal production including dispersal and re-dispersal, rabies prevention and control, pasture development, meat processing, livelihood support, and the operations of our city slaughterhouse remains in the forefront of our livestock development efforts.

Looking at our comparative spending from 2008 to 2015 for the above-mentioned services, we have increased our spending to an average of about P6 million beginning 2010 which is higher compared to that of the previous period. Worth noting once again is our production support to the local livestock raisers through the P6.0-million Mini Feed Mill project whose production increased threefold compared to that of the previous year. **This is the first feed mill manufacturing facility established in the city. The capacity of this mill has still to be upgraded in order to accommodate the demand of the livestock raisers.**

It is just unfortunate that the volume of our slaughtered livestock in our city slaughterhouse continues to decline since 2012 due to the increased entry of frozen meat products supplying various meat shops and supermarkets in our city.

Tourism is another area where we have made considerable headway. Comparative tourist arrivals show that from the period 2004-2010, total tourist arrivals reached more than half a million averaging around 72,000 per year. In the succeeding period from 2010-2015 our total arrivals reached more than 1.2 million tourists averaging more than 200,000 per year.

Our room accommodation supply has almost doubled from 598 in 2009 to 1,158 in 2015. Average occupancy rates for all types of establishments also increased from 27% in 2009 to 35% last year.

Events held in our locality also made a strong impact with an 83% increase in the numbers last year compared to 2014 and the number of delegates almost doubling. With the airport expansion project already in the pipeline, we would be expecting a sustained surge in arrivals and events held in our city. I encourage our business community especially those in the food, accommodation, entertainment

and related services to continue investing and upgrading your facilities and services. Allow me at this juncture to thank you for your sustained trust and support that together we can push our tourism industry to greater heights.

**For our Entrepreneurship, Business and Industry Promotion,** the number of registered business establishments reached more than 3,800 in 2015 and this increased by 13% since 2010.

If we look at the types of establishments that posted increase in number, these include among others: amusement and gaming, banks, cooperatives, lending and micro-finance, gas stations, hotels and lodging, pawnshops and money changers, real estate leasing, service establishments, printing, restaurants, trucking and hauling. All of these serve as indicators of increased purchasing power in our locality and the much improved business environment. What is also more evident now is that we have much larger establishments than before hence we noted a reduction in the number of sari-sari stores and *ukay-ukay* dealers by as much as 26% and 28% respectively between 2010 and 2015.

New investments in 2015 totaled P299 million and the cumulative total in the last five (5) years reached over P1.0 billion. The gross sales of registered firms on the other hand totaled more than P8 billion with a cumulative total in the last five (5) years of over P36 billion.

Even the data from DTI's business name registrations show an improved picture. From 631 firms registered in 2010, the total last year reached 858 or an increase of almost 36%.

On top of the employment mechanisms we have pursued under government programs and operations, our local businesses supported more than 10,000 jobs and new investments created more than 1,200 more in 2015. In the last five (5) years business investments created almost 20,000 jobs. This is of course excluding those generated by corporations.

We would like to thank our local business sector for continuously supporting us in the establishment of an improved business environment here in our city and for complementing our efforts in creating job opportunities. Let us give our top 15 biggest taxpayers a big round of applause.

Our export commodities consisting of nickel ore, chrome ore and iron sand fines, also showed a huge leap in the last six (6) years compared to the period before that. From 2004-2010 total exports reached more than a billion US dollars averaging about \$167 million per year. Between 2010-2015 this ballooned to \$3.2 billion dollars averaging more than \$500 million per year.

**On ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT,** concerted efforts for the various interventions in natural resource protection, conservation and management remained in the forefront of our efforts. I would commend and thank once again the efforts of the different agencies, schools, private organizations and others for their continued support and complementary initiatives to our environmental programs. Your support is always essential in our ability to sustain all these programs.

**For our Waste Management and Pollution Control services,** we owe it to the past administration in pushing for the establishment of the Sanitary Landfill Project that we have now. However, it was only in June 2011 that the landfill became fully operational and we are now starting to use waste cell number two already. The feasibility study of the landfill then considered only about 20 metric tons of waste daily but now we are collecting more than 30 metric tons of waste daily.

The last purchase of garbage collection equipment the city made was before the onset of our first term in 2010 with four (4) surplus or reconditioned units. We have since then added equipment, to support our operations with two (2) heavy equipment at the landfill site and four (4) brand new dumptrucks now used for garbage collection.

Another highlight of our efforts is the support we have extended in organizing, training and providing livelihood support to garbage scavengers. Now we have the Surigao City Informal Waste Sector Association (SUCIWASA) **who are already engaged in scrap buying and organic fertilizer production as their income generating project.**

**On INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT,** our infrastructure projects totaled more than P100 million last year and it is the first time that we reached this much investment in infrastructure. Comparatively between the periods 2004-2009 and 2010-2015, we have lesser average number of projects in the last six years at 311 per year compared to the preceding period of 317 projects per year. However, the amount of average investment per year is higher at P67 million against P58 million of the preceding period.

What is noteworthy really is that we have opened up new roads and improved critical road segments under my administration. This is in pursuit of long held plans and proposals dating back to the 1990s and I really would like to thank the support extended by our national government agencies especially the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Among the new roads opened up or improved are the following: Punta Bilar-Looc-Mabua Road; Ipil-Mabua Road; Mat-i to So. Tagbasingan Road; portion of Sabang-Rizal Road; the 1.8 km. segment of the Cagniog-Cayutan-Canlanipa-Port Area Road; and the Buenavista-Alang-Alang Road which is a portion of the long proposed Hikdop Island Circumferential Road.

### **Our Plans and Priorities for 2016 and beyond ...**

I will once again lay out the priorities that the city will be pursuing in 2016 and the years ahead, and these are:

- ***Complete the 7-hectare NHA-Surigao Countryhomes Socialized Housing Project and Access Additional Funds for New Housing Projects.*** The first tranche of the P22 million grant was already released to the city and we will be seeking further financial assistance for the development of the newly-acquired 24-hectare property at Brgy. Balibayon.
- ***Sustain the promotion of private sector investments for commercial, industrial and tourism development.*** We have already seen the leaps we have made in business and job creation in the last five (5) years. The horizon is now brighter with prospects for our industrial bases on nickel refining and cement manufacturing.

Our economic enterprises, particularly the Central Public Market and the Land Transport Terminal will be upgraded at no cost to the city government through Public-Private Partnership. As early as last year we have already received the unsolicited proposal and plans for the projects, especially the upgrading of the public market into a multi-level commercial center, from a potential partner. We are just awaiting the passage of the pending policy measure at the SP – the PPP Code **and the updated Investment & Incentives Code**, to give us the necessary basis for our actions.

On the same note, our Land Transport Terminal is envisioned to be transformed into a three-storey multi-use building that can house potential call center locators. Also in our Transport Terminal, anytime from now, the City of Surigao will have an NBI Satellite Office that will be open to the public since a MOA has been signed by Director Dodong Mendez of the NBI and the LGU's City Mayor last February 2016.

A major activity which will further boost our investment promotion efforts is our co-hosting with the Surigao Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the

25<sup>th</sup> Mindanao Business Conference which will be held in our city in August of this year.

- **Improve local revenue generation.** With another dismal performance from real property tax collections, the city has to **strengthen and** give special focus on the collection of delinquencies and implementation of remedial measures in the coming years.
- **Sustain and enhance agricultural, fisheries and livestock development programs.** We will continue with our commitment to provide enough affordable food supply for our people and improve the lives of our farming and fishing communities through expanded regular programs, continuing emphasis on high value crops farming with support from national interventions like the Bottom Up Budgeting, Phil. Rural Development Program, Dept. of Agriculture regular programs and others.

With more than 2,000 fisherfolks registered here in our city, we will continue to push for internal or external funding for the realization of our long overdue **Fishing Port Project**.

- **Improve Waste Collection and Disposal.** The challenge of effectively managing our garbage remains a daunting task especially with increasing population and urbanization. We have already developed the second waste disposal cell in our sanitary landfill, acquired brand new collection equipment as we have promised last year, and we shall continue with our information drive campaigns. With our proposed PPP code still pending at the SP, we cannot as yet pursue possible service contract agreement with the private sector for our garbage collection services.
- **Improve road circulation network and urban traffic management.** The first phase of our arterial roads development has already kicked off with the development and completion of several segments. We thank the DPWH, **the Dept. of Tourism, and the Dept. of Agriculture** for supporting our needs and we shall continue doing so in the years to come to solve congestion in certain areas and providing alternative routes. Among others, the projects in the pipeline are the following:
  - *Completion of the Cagniog-Cayutan-Canlanipa-Borromeo St. Road;*
  - *Improvement of Togbongon-Mat-i-Mabini-Anomar-Trinidad Road;*
  - *Development of Bonifacio-Poctoy Bypass Road;*
  - *Development of Luna (Motorpool)-Sabang Road;*

- *Improvement and Expansion works along the National Highways including drainage canal development along Borromeo St.;*
- *Development of Bypass Road along the old Spanish road connecting Arellano Highway and Luna;*
- *Completion of the Rizal (Bioborjan)-Sabang Road and the Hikdop Island Circumferential Road;*

MMDA has already turned-over the completed Traffic Management Plan and this has been endorsed on the committee level of the City Development Council. Once endorsed by the CDC general assembly not later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year, we will be forwarding the same to the SP for adoption and the passage of corresponding amendments to the Traffic Management Ordinance for an entirely updated Traffic Management Code.

In support of this, CCTVs will be installed after the election ban to enhance traffic management and crime monitoring.

Street lighting along the national highway, funded by the National Roads Board under the SLRF, is now ongoing with the work having been started in the last week of February, through the DPWH. This will be placed along the stretch from Caraga Regional Hospital to Citi Hardware. The timeline to complete the implementation of this project will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year. For the record, it was YOURS TRULY who personally requested this funding from Executive Director Escalona of the National Roads Board last November of 2015.

Aside from the physical components of road development and its attendant facilities, we may also see this year the renewed introduction of a much better and more advanced E-Trike. The manufacturing or assembly of the said vehicles will be done here in the locality, thus generating jobs, and the introduction of a rent-to-own scheme will help to provide livelihood support to our tricycle drivers. Unlike the earlier versions, this one is more advanced, with stronger motor but with the same emission-free and noise-free operation.

- ***Rehabilitation and Improvement of Seawalls and Shore Protection.*** In view of my letter of request last 2015 to the Office of the President addressed to President Aquino, requesting the amount of P310 million for the 22 identified barangays for the rehabilitation and improvements of the seawall and shore protection, our request was acted upon by the Office of the President thru the DPWH Secretary Rogelio L. Singson's letter dated January 26, 2016 instructing the Regional Director Danilo E. Versola of

DPWH Caraga to inspect and make recommendations as to which of the 22 identified areas will be given first priority upon the result of their assessment and preparation of feasibility studies. To date, related works are currently being undertaken to benefit our island and coastal barangays.

- ***Support to Basic Education.*** We were able to access funds for the fencing of various public schools through the BUB projects and we shall continue to seek funds for this purpose. We have likewise started and will continue to assist our public schools in the processing of the security of tenure of the school sites through our School Board Fund. We will also facilitate the provision of the reported shortage of 24 classrooms at the secondary level and our full support to the K to 12 or the Senior High School educational program.
- ***Development of New Public Cemetery.*** This year, we will finally be starting the first phase development of the project with an initial appropriation of P5.0 million.
- ***Surigao City Airport Expansion Project.*** Our airport project will definitely push through with an approved allocation of P300 million in the GAA of 2015. We will be starting this year, in cooperation with the DOTC, the actual acquisition of the rights- of-way for the expansion project. The total cost of the Surigao Airport expansion is P3.7 Billion pesos based on their feasibility study.
- ***City Hall Annex/Expansion Project.*** As I have mentioned earlier, we have created new offices in line with national mandates and our own local requirements. The need to provide additional space for an efficient and better service delivery remains a priority. Hence we will continue to seek funding for the realization of this project. The City of Surigao deserves a new City Hall Annex Building for us Surigaonons to be proud of having a new City Hall since our City is the center of attraction of our province.

Today, as I have always done since my first term, I have once again reported to you the city's accomplishments and laid out our plans in the years ahead. Surigao City will change dramatically into a beautiful, very vibrant and more competitive city with the expected changes in the set of local officials after the elections and of course, with your sustained support to my administration.

As I have always repeated time and again, my commitment to service remains steadfast with no other priority but the development of our city and the upliftment of the quality of life of the *Surigaonons*. During my first term as your

Mayor, even when my situation during the 2010 election was difficult and full of challenges, I was blessed by the majority of the Surigaonons who voted for me and believed in me. Everyone of you who believed in my capacity to help improve our city to be more progressive by inviting new investors to put up their business and create job opportunities. To the thousands of my constituents who are now working in Gaisano Mall, Parkway Hotel, Citi Hardware, McDonalds, Chinabank, Security Bank, Eastwest Bank, Asia United Bank and other new establishments that also help contribute to the local revenue of our city. All of these things would not be possible without your support and without the help of the majority of our fellow Surigaonons. You are the reason and my motivation, my fellow Surigaonons, who inspires me to do more and achieve more for the betterment of our people, for the development of our beloved city and for the future of our children.

“AN TAWO UNA SA TANAN”, the mantra and battle cry of my administration have earned me both praises and criticisms. I understand that we cannot always please everyone but at the end of the day, what matters most is the general welfare of our people. I have more projects and plans in store for Surigao City in the future which I hope to complete with your unwavering support for another term. Let me take this opportunity to once again thank all the sectors in our community for continuously believing in my leadership. And I hope that we could continue to work together so that we can attain our goals, realize our dreams and accomplish more than we ever thought we could.

Thank you very much. Good afternoon once again. *Mabuhay kita mga Surigaonon!*