

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS-2009

Municipality of Alegria, Province of Surigao del Norte
June 15, 2009

TEMA: *Alegria Naningkamot Alang sa Tinuod nga Kalambuan*

HON. DOMINADOR G. ESMA, JR.

Municipal Mayor

To the Honorable Members of the Sangguniang Bayan headed by the Presiding Officer, Hon. Vice-Mayor Ernesto C. Odjinar, Sr., Barangay Captains and its Barangay Councils, to the different government line agencies, municipal employees, representatives from the different civil society organizations, distinguished guests and visitors, to all Alegriahanons...Marajaw na hapon dijo hurot...

This afternoon, I will be delivering to you my 2nd State Of the Municipality Address covering the accomplishments of 2008 and the plans and programs for this current year 2009. My report includes the following areas of development: in governance, administration, social services, economic development, environmental management, infrastructure development and the 2009 current plans and programs.

But first allow me to revisit our shared vision of having a socially, economically developed and god-centered Alegria through sustainable management of Agri-fishery and Ecotourism by the LGU in partnership of the people. Let us re-examine also the LGU Mission whose main concern is to uplift the living condition of the people through productive use of its Agri-fishery and Ecotourism resources and by the establishment of support system and facilities. Today, let us evaluate if we are in the right track of our specific objectives in governance:

1. To provide the people of good and quality standard infrastructure facilities.
2. To improve the delivery of basic services to all stakeholders.
3. To gain proper knowledge and skills in the handling of fiscal and administrative management.
4. To maximize technical assistance on agriculture sector from the local government unit.
5. To provide medical assistance to indigents.
6. To venture on economic enterprise projects.

Ladies and gentlemen, my report will focus first on Governance.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

The Office of the Sangguniang Bayan under the leadership of the 3 termer Vice-Mayor Hon. Ernesto C. Odjinar, Sr., remained steadfast and supportive of the overall development plan of the municipality.

Based on the Executive and Legislative Agenda and the overall development agenda of the municipality, a total of 93 resolutions and 4 ordinances were passed. Several public hearings, committee meetings and other meetings were conducted in the pursuit of enabling greater community participation.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The year in review proved to be another banner implementation period in the municipality's continuing effort to install reforms to improve its services with pro-active governance.

In response to this, the LGU took several measures through implementation and adoption of the following:

1. One Stop Shop Scheme in applying local permits and licenses.
2. Citizens participation through membership representation to the different local special bodies such as the Municipal Development Council, Municipal School Board, Municipal Health Board, Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council and other special committees/councils formed by the LGU like the nutrition council, solid waste management board and others.
3. Adoption of the New Government Auditing System (NGAS).
4. Standardizing services information to the public through the Citizens Charter.
5. Uploading of pertinent information, plans and programs of the LGU at the official website: <http://aleqriasuriqao.ph> and <http://aleqriasuriqao.wordpress.com>
6. Conduct of regular meetings among local offices and municipal officials.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

In line with their mandate, the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) was able to complete the preparation and approval of the Annual Investment Plan of 2009, the initial encoding, digitizing and mapping of data surveyed from the 12 barangays under the Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) that will bring the LGU into computerized data banking generation in a very effective and fastest way, formulated the Municipal Socio-Economic Profile of 2007, prepared and submitted the State of Local Governance Report (SLGR-2008) to various offices and line agencies including the preparation of this State of the Municipality Address (SOMA-2009).

The project proposals packaged by the MPDO in coordination of the Municipal Technical Working Group were favorably considered for implementation by various national and foreign funding agencies in forms of grants, loans and equity accessing a total project amount of more than P 60 million.

REVENUE GENERATION and FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

Despite the global economic crisis, the municipality continued to some degree, its efforts to augment local tax collections in addition to the nationally sourced Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). The LGU share of IRA in 2008 totaled P 24,602,769.00 representing 89% of the total income of the municipality. In the same year, LGU Alegria was informed pursuant to Executive Order No. 723 dated May 12, 2008 thru DBM Secretary Rolando G. Andaya, Jr., the release of the IRA differential covering the years 2001 and 2004 amounting to P 1,449,255.52 of which supplemental budget No. 2 was passed appropriating the purchase of 2 mini-dump trucks, service vehicle for the legislative office, additional allocation for the construction of streetlights and other necessary expenditures.

Locally generated income in 2008 from real properties, permits and licenses amounted to P 2,086,165.46 as against the 2007 local income of only P 1,428,504.39 or an increase of 68.47%. In the same manner, LGU Alegria received grants and donations in the same year amounted to P 1,002,990.24.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

To manifest improved customer service to all local offices in the municipality, the following measures were implemented:

1. Adoption of one stop shop strategy in the issuances of permits and licenses.
2. Adoption of CSC slogan of “Mamayan Muna Hindi Mamaya Na”.
3. Display of flow chart and services rendered per office for an effective and quick service delivery to customers.

This is aimed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of LGU Alegria in the delivery of basic goods and services and elimination of red tape practices.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The municipality maintained its adherence to prescribed mandates in human resource management and development set by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The organization is composed of 12 elected officials (Mayor, Vice-Mayor, 8 regular SB Members & 2 Ex-Officio SB Members coming from the Liga Ng Mga Barangay and the SK Federation), 48 permanent employees and 65 job orders assigned to various front line local offices engage in social and development services.

In 2008, series of trainings, seminar-workshops were being conducted to enhance on the existing human resource management structures and functions. Among the activities conducted were the following: 1. Value Formation seminar to all employees facilitated by CFC and Alegria Catholic Parish; and 2. Office Performance Evaluations System (OPES) re-orientation seminar to permanent employees.

In coordination of the Municipal DILG Office, other line agencies and civil society associations, the municipality also facilitated the conduct of the System on Competency Assessment for Local Governments (SCALOG), which resulted to the formulation of the Municipality's Capability Development Plan.

To further enhance efficiency and accountability among our employees, the municipality installed biometric fingerprint reader for the attendance and leaves monitoring of our regular employees.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The municipal government through the municipal health office intensified its delivery of quality health care to the public in the 12 barangays through the effective collaboration of the municipality's skilled health personnel with BHW volunteers and support/assistance extended by World Vision-Australia thru the Surigao del Norte People's Initiative Development Association, Inc. (SNPIDA), from the CDF funds of Congressman Romarate and concerned medical practitioners.

In 2008, the municipal health station of Alegria has acquired one unit of ambulance vehicle from Congressman Romarate and the municipality was able to construct a birthing clinic and TB clinic with financial assistance from World Vision-Australia/SNPIDA and counterpart fund of the LGU from its 20% municipal development fund of the same year.

Medical services extended focused on DOH programs like CDD CARI, Maternal and Child Health, Leprosy, Tuberculosis (NTP), Nutrition and Family Planning, regular immunization schedule, family planning methods such as DMPA, IUD insertion and oral contraceptives, daily consultations, supply of essential drugs, AFB smear, minor surgery and information education campaign against rabies.

Medical mission were also scheduled and done through the sponsorship of Congressman Romarate and non-governmental organizations where circumcision, minor operations, dental services and other ailments were extended medical attention and every patient was provided with free medicines. These medical missions has been supported and spearheaded by Dr. Uldarico S. Uriarte, Jr., Dr. Eunice R. Uriarte and Dr. Michael Ian R. Uriarte.

In support to the nutrition program of the national government, LGU Alegria distributed assorted vegetable seeds to 12 barangays resulted to the establishment of communal gardens showcasing the importance of vegetables as one of the solution of preventing malnutrition. Vitamin A supplementations were administered to 6-71 months old pre-school children both routine and high risks groups through the Garantisadong Pambata Program of the Department of Health.

Similarly, DepEd Alegria District established school vegetable gardens to educate the students the values of good health, nutrition, industry and love of labor. This has been tied up with the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation program of PGMA and of the Dept. of Agriculture thru the Municipal Agriculture Office.

EDUCATION

In 2008, the municipal government of Alegria provided one unit of desk top computer with complete accessories to the office of the district supervisor, assigned one office clerk personnel in the district office and one office clerk in honorarium basis to Alegria National High School and a security guard in Alegria Central Elementary School where the district office is found charge to Special Education Fund (SEF) of the municipality.

During the 2008 Brigada Eskwela, LGU Alegria extended financial assistance to the district during its restoration activities in preparation for the official opening of classes. Activities of the district like participation to the provincial and regional palaro and scouting were provided by the Municipal School Board thru the special education fund.

On the other hand, World Vision Australia thru SNPIDA provided scholarship program to registered children in the elementary level in their coverage recipient barangays which are Barangay San Juan, Ombong and Pongtud. They provided school uniforms, textbooks and other school items needed by the students.

One unit classroom has been built at Alegria National High School funded by World Vision thru SNPIDA and another one unit classroom built at Camp Eduard Elementary School from the Kalahi-Kalayaan funds of the national government.

In support to the striving college students of the locality, LGU Alegria thru the Public Employment Services Office (PESO) hired 90 summer job students last year for a period of 45 days. This program is shared by the Department of Labor and Employment paying the summer job students 40% of the salary while the LGU shouldered the 60% payment of salaries.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT

The municipal government of Alegria has maintained 13 day care centers throughout the locality. 250 pre-school children were recognized during the year 2008 and thru the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, it facilitated in the enhancement training for day care workers for an effective mentoring of pre-schoolers.

Programs and services extended by MSWDO includes assistance to individual in crisis situation, pre-marriage counseling, marriage counseling, referrals, assistance to VAW-C and child abuse clients and support services for elderly. In support to the Hunger Mitigation Program of PGMA, LGU Alegria thru the MSWDO identified and recommended to the National Food Authority for the establishment of Tindahan Natin outlets selling NFA rice at affordable and subsidized price located strategically in the 8 barangays of the municipality.

In the year 2008, the Crisis Intervention Center was constructed through the financial assistance from World Vision-SNPIDA and counterpart funding from the LGU's 20% municipal development fund. It serves as temporary shelter for abused women and children during crisis situation and at the same time, serves as livelihood training center for youth and women's group. In this building, office space is being provided also to the Senior Citizens federation of Alegria where meetings and other activities are held.

SPORTS AND CULTURAL SHOW DEVELOPMENT

In 2008, from May 14 in preparations for the patronal town fiesta on May 15 towards June 15 which is the Adlaw nan Alegria celebration, several events were prepared and shown to the public for them to appreciate and witness the various talents and skills of the performers in the field of sports and cultural show presentations.

During the opening day, a grand parade was made participated in by 11 barangays with floats and contestants for the pageant search for the Mutya nan Alegria 2008 on June 14, and of course, with the active participation of municipal and barangay officials, employees and civil society organizations. Another float was provided for the Mrs. Alegria contestants to be crowned on May 15.

Event in sports were the inter-barangay basketball tournament participated in by the 12 barangay teams, basketball and volleyball exhibition games between Barangay Officials, municipal officials and employees and Dep.Ed district personnel were played.

Cultural dance were performed also on May 14 represented by the three groups namely: the municipal officials and employees, the barangay officials and Dep.Ed district teaching staff in the Balikbayan Nights Affair.

During the month long activities, weekly videoke and hip hop dance contest were facilitated. A separate videoke challenge contest was also presented by the municipal and barangay officials, municipal head of offices and Dep. Ed Alegria District represented by elementary principals.

Parallel to these activities was the launching of the 1st Municipal Agro-fair where booths of the 12 barangays were full of displayed agri-products and sold to the public at farm gate prices. We sustained this activity by having the 2nd Municipal Agro-Fair 2009 to showcase our agriculturally grown products in the barangays.

PEACE, SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The total crime volume of the municipality in 2008 was 36, which represented 56% decline compared to previous year. Of this, 80% were index crimes and 20% were non-index crimes. Crime solution efficiency posted high at 90% as result of the combined efforts of the police, the barangay tanods, other law enforcement units and community. Average crime rate was at 9 as against the 13,522 population in 2008.

Last year, Alegria Municipal Police Station acquired one (1) unit brand new service motorcycle and another one (1) unit brand new patrol car from PNP Camp Crame general headquarters. These equipments help a lot to the local police officers in their regular police monitoring in our locality.

As to Disaster Risk Management, the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council was reorganized by virtue of the Executive Order issued by the municipal mayor duly adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan. To further equipped the MDCC Team leaders and members in times of calamity, LGU Alegria in coordination with the Office of Civil Defense, Caraga Region conducted training on Disaster Risk Management where simulation exercises was done. Output of the said activity was the formulation of the Contingency Plan on Flooding which was participated actively from among the municipal and barangay officials, heads of offices, academe and civil society organizations.

When floods occurred in some parts of the municipality last December 2008, most particularly, barangays along lake Mainit and along Magtiaco river, foodstuffs were distributed to affected families and to some reported damaged homes, the LGU extended donations in the form of housing materials. In the same manner, Congressman Romarate distributed also relief goods to affected families in the municipality. While World Vision Australia thru SNPIDA made her own relief distribution to Barangay Ombong, San Juan and Pongtud to affected registered families.

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

Through the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program, certified seed, hybrid bio-seeds were distributed under the 50/50 payment scheme and a total of 738 bags were extended on a first come first served basis based on the master list of rice farmers in the municipality. Farm inputs such as 1,860 liters of liquid fertilizer, 25 bags of zinc sulphate, 200 gallons of free grow organic liquid fertilizer and 4,000 packs of Nitro fix were provided to interested farmers. A total of 155 units of knapsack sprayers were distributed also to 12 barangays, farmer-members of associations and cooperatives who are engaged in dry and wet farming.

Under the 10 hectares Techno demo on bio-seed hybrid rice farming, there are 10 farmer-cooperators enrolled to this program and were given free fertilizers and pesticides by the Department of Agriculture, Caraga Region facilitated by the Municipal Agriculture Office.

More than 1,000 pieces of fertilizer discount coupons were issued to farmers to avail of 15% discount of commercial fertilizers at accredited suppliers determined by the Department of Agriculture.

In support to the nutrition and hunger mitigation program of the national government, LGU Alegria in collaboration of the Department of Agriculture distributed 1,019 pouches of assorted vegetable seeds to the 12 barangays, farmers association, school institution and interested private individuals.

Last year, around 42,000 fingerlings were seeded in Lake Mainit within the territorial jurisdiction of LGU Alegria in collaboration of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). We also intensified our efforts in the apprehension of illegal fishing to prevent damaged and over-fishing of our aquatic resources in the lake and rivers. Regular monitoring and patrol activities are done by the BFARMC/MFARMC, local police authorities and deputized fish wardens.

LGU Alegria thru the Municipal Agriculture Office and Provincial Veterinarian Office facilitated vaccinations of pet dogs against rabies.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROMOTION

Just like other LGU's in the region, Alegria have also the basic infrastructure facilities like communications, electric power, water systems, transport facilities and road networks.

A total of 158 business establishment were registered in 2008 reflecting a 12% increase over the previous year. We are optimistic that the number of privately owned investments in the next few years will double up due to LGU's future investments of upgrading the water system supply into level III, operation of a modern bus and jeepney terminal and engaging other income generating projects. We have improved our public market facility which is the wet market section and the plan to construct the vegetable section by the 1st quarter of 2010 to be funded from the 20% municipal development fund and is expected to spur economic activity in the market area.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Alegria is blessed with a beautiful Lumondo waterfalls located in Barangay Budlingin with a distance of approximately 3.5 kilometers from the national highway. Recently, it was visited by two giant television networks, the ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

In 2008, LGU Alegria intensified its promotion of the falls by uploading it in the official website of the municipality just as the province of Surigao del Norte included Lumondo falls in the provincial tourism flyers and other promotional tourism documents.

During the 2008 search of Mutya nan Alegria, swimsuit pictorials of the 11 contestants was held behind the majestic Lumondo Falls as its background.

The present situation of facilities in the falls needs to be improve in order to capture more visits to the area. This prompted us to allocate more funds next year to develop the falls that will be competitive to other tourism destinations in the region.

Side by side, we are also in the process of promoting our newly discovered Puting Bato cave located in the mountain ranges of Barangay Budlingin which is 5 kilometers away from the barangay proper whose pictures were uploaded already in our website.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

During the 1st quarter of 2008, LGU Alegria launched the **Ecological Sustainability & Management of Alegria (ESMA)** program in response to RA 9003 which is the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001 and in complementation with the Advocacy for Clean Environment and its Sustainability (ACES) program of the province of Surigao del Norte.

Through the executive order of the LCE, the composition of the municipal ecological solid waste management board was re-organized and training on solid waste management was facilitated in order to refresh the minds of ESWM members of their roles and responsibilities anchored to the activities of the ESMA program.

In 2008, ESMA program of activities were the following:

1. Search for Cleanest and Greenest Barangay
2. Search for Best Purok
3. Search for Model Household

In the same year, during the 1st Gov. Robert Ace S. Barbers Search for the Cleanest and Greenest Municipality, LGU Alegria was chosen as one of the Top Ten performer of the search having the rank as no. 7 out of 20 municipalities and received an special award as the cleanest public toilet in the entire province of Surigao del Norte.

In support to the solid waste disposal program, the LGU purchased 2 additional mini dump trucks as augmentation equipments in the collection of garbage from the barangays.

Reported apprehensions of illegal loggers were being recorded and filing of appropriate charges were being undertaken as deterrent factor of future violations. We are bound to protect our forest and other natural resources thus strict implementation of these laws shall prevail.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

In the whole year of 2008, the following projects were implemented, completed and on-going status:

1. Locally Funded Projects

1.1 Municipal Funds

- Construction of Wet Market Building
- Construction of Concrete Line Canal
- Construction of Street Lights
- Construction of birthing & TB DOTS clinics
- Completion of Alegria Commercial Center
- Construction of Public Comfort Rooms
- Construction of Crisis Intervention Center

- Construction of the Municipal Development Training Center
- Improvement of Alegria Community Stage and Basketball court bleachers
- Coverage of 576 families issued with Phil-health cards

1.2 Provincial Funds

- On going construction of Barangay Poblacion Gymnasium/basketball covered court
- Construction of concrete cross bridge at Lumondo Waterfalls
- Coverage of 220 families issued with Phil-health cards

2. Nationally Funded Projects

2.1 CDF funds of Congressman Romarate

- Counterpart fund in the construction of street lights
- Counterpart fund in the improvement of Alegria Community Stage
- Counterpart fund in the construction of Municipal Development Training Center
- Counterpart fund in the establishment of Municipal E-Library
- Completion of Alipao Gymnasium/basketball covered court
- Completion of Pongtud Gymnasium/basketball covered court
- Improvement of San Pedro Barangay Hall
- Construction of Anahaw Barangay Health Center
- On-going construction of Julio Ouano water reservoir
- 100 bags of cement as counterpart for various projects at Barangay San Pedro
- 100 bags of cement as counterpart for various projects at Barangay Anahaw
- 100 bags of cement as counterpart for various projects at Barangay Budlingin
- Coverage of 1,664 families issued with Phil-health cards
- Distributed desk top computers with complete accessories to 8 barangays

2.2 National Government Agencies

- On going construction/rehabilitation of Barangay Ombong to Camp Eduard farm to market road funded by Dept. of Agriculture with counterpart fund from the provincial government
- On-going construction /completion of Poblacion to Lakeshore road funded by Dept. of Agriculture with counterpart fund from LGU Alegria in the amount of P600,000.00

3. Foreign Funded Projects

3.1 DAR/IFAD NMCIREMP Projects

- Construction of Pongtud potable water system level II
- Construction of Alipao potable water system level II
- Various livelihood projects of community institutions and self help groups at Barangay Poblacion, Anahaw, Alipao, San Juan, Pongtud and Budlingin.
- Concreting of 0.8 kilometer FMR at Barangay Budlingin

3.2 Philippine-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP Projects)

- Agro forestry projects to Barangay Budlingin and Camp Eduard cooperatives
- Livelihood projects to Barangay Budlingin and Camp Eduard cooperatives

2009 and ONWARDS

My dear Alegriahanons, the accomplishments and the gains we have sustained will forever leave a mark in the history of our municipality. With almost a year left for this administration to take the helm of our municipality's development, we have planned out and set the following targets for 2009 and beyond:

- The completion of the first phase development of our new municipal building with the support of the CDF funds of Congressman Romarate.
- The establishment of Community Trading Centers at Barangay Budlingin and Camp Eduard with funding support from GEM-USAID and CDF funds of Congressman Romarate.
- The construction/rehabilitation of Barangay Camp Eduard to Ferlda FMR with funding support from Kalahi-Kalayaan, GEM-USAID and CDF funds of Congressman Romarate.
- The construction of Barangay Budlingin to Camp Eduard FMR with funding support from Kalahi-Kalayaan Funds.
- Additional construction of school rooms and other needed infrastructure facilities in Kalahi identified barangays.
- Construction of Fish Port at Barangay Alipao jointly funded under Kalahi-Kalayaan Funds and GEM-USAID with counterpart fund of LGU Alegria
- The upgrading of water system supply into level III connections to 9 barangays in the lowland in line of the plan of LGU Alegria to engage in enterprise development.
- The establishment of a modern and spacious bus and jeepney terminal complex complete with facilities in line again of the plan of LGU Alegria to engage in enterprise development.
- Procurement of heavy equipments in support to our infrastructure development program of the municipality
- Rehabilitation of Alegria Public Market and construction of additional market facilities most particularly, the vegetable section.
- On-going construction of Alegre Diner and Grill as one of the income generating facility of the LGU.

Ladies and gentlemen, everything about the future is uncertain. But one thing is for sure, God has already arranged all our tomorrows. We just have to trust Him as He leads.

To the Sangguniang Bayan of Alegria, I strongly convey my sincere thanks of your great role of supporting the plans, programs and projects of my administration. I also commend the strong support of our barangay officials, to the employees and to the general public of our growing concern towards prosperity.

In closing, we affirm our commitment that we will direct our strong political will, our energy, our minds and hearts towards the greater good of our municipality.

May the great Almighty God guide and support us in our endeavors. Mabuhay an Alegria!