

# Siquijor Offline

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## Senator Cayetano Allocated Funds for Siquijor Road Projects *by Rene Rocamora*

The Siquijor province's circumferential road had been the subject of discussions and the butt of jokes by its citizens. While the road is finally pieced together from one end to the other, the quality of the road is very poor. The exception is the Larena-Siquijor road, which was originally paved with slurry seal but was demolished and replaced with cement and completed this year. The other is a stretch of highway in Najerong. Millions of funds have been thrown

into this road project and now eighteen million seven hundred fifty thousand pesos (P18,750,000.00) was allocated by Senator Renato L. Cayetano from his pork barrel funds. The amount was part of the eighty million pesos (P80,000,000.00) that was allocated to him as senator. He was the only one out of eighteen senators who had allocations that selected Siquijor for the DPWH appropriation. Siquijor got the biggest share of the total funds allo-

cated to Region VII. While Siquijorians should be thankful for the senator for his generosity, they should urged him to make sure these funds are applied properly.

Below is the allocation breakdown:

- Siquijor-Larena Broken Roads 5,500,000
- Lazi-San Juan Road - 4,500,000;
- Talingting-Maria Road - 3,750,000
- Maria-Lazi Road- 5,000,000

## Province of Siquijor – Statement of Receipts and Expenditures *by Rene Rocamora*

There has been a lot of talk about Cebu seceding from the national government and just a couple of days ago, former Cebu governor Lito

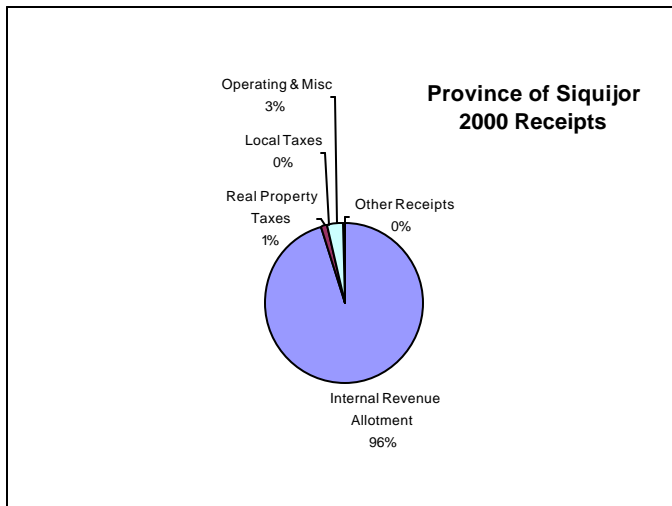
Osmena presented position papers regarding this concept. What about Siquijor? The chart in the next page clearly shows the dependence of

the province from the national government. Almost all of its revenue comes from the Internal Revenue Allotment (See page 2)

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *How much does the Province of Siquijor contribute to the Gross National Product?*
- *Check out how much money was allocated by the national government to Siquijor?*
- *What are the progress of these projects?*

## Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—continued



The next table shows the statement of receipts and expenditures for the province of Siquijor for the years 2000-2001. Important points to consider are the following:

1. Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) - is the annual share of local governments out of the proceeds from national internal revenue taxes. It is estimated at forty percent (40%) of the actual collections of national internal revenue taxes during the third fiscal year preceding the current year, as certified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).
2. Real property tax (RPT) collections of the province and city
3. General Services Expenditures – general administration, audit, civil service and lawmaking functions, public order and safety including various functions pertaining to law enforcement, maintenance of public order and safety and political administration.
4. Economic Services – communications, roads and transportation, facilities, agriculture, agrarian reform & natural resources, water resources development and flood control, trade & industry, power

and energy & tourism

5. Social Services – education, culture and manpower development, health services, social security, welfare and employment, housing and community development and land distribution

### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF SIQUIJOR STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

|                            | 2000        |      | 2001        |      | 2002        |      |
|----------------------------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| Beginning Cash Balance     | 1,200,000   |      | 18,580,000  |      | 34,650,000  |      |
| <b>RECEIPTS:</b>           |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| Tax Revenue                |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| Internal Revenue Allotment | 112,950,000 | 96%  | 112,950,000 | 84%  | 137,620,000 | 96%  |
| Real Property Taxes        | 1,290,000   | 1%   | 17,000,000  | 13%  | 1,312,000   | 1%   |
| Local Taxes                | 120,000     | 0%   | 490,000     | 0%   | 123,000     | 0%   |
| Total Tax Revenue          | 114,360,000 |      | 130,440,000 |      | 139,055,000 | 97%  |
| Non-Tax Revenue            |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| Operating & Misc           | 3,820,000   | 3%   | 4,720,000   | 3%   | 3,694,000   | 3%   |
| Other Receipts             | 50,000      | 0%   | -           | 0%   | -           | 0%   |
| Total Non-Tax Revenue      | 3,870,000   |      | 4,720,000   |      | 3,694,000   |      |
| Total Receipts:            | 118,230,000 | 100% | 135,160,000 | 100% | 142,749,000 | 97%  |
| Total Financial Resources  | 119,430,000 |      | 153,740,000 |      | 177,399,000 | 97%  |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>       |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| General Services           | 27,090,000  | 27%  | 33,940,000  | 28%  | 36,218,000  | 26%  |
| Economic Services          | 21,800,000  | 22%  | 25,160,000  | 21%  | 27,413,000  | 19%  |
| Social Services            | 30,640,000  | 30%  | 33,570,000  | 28%  | 38,655,000  | 27%  |
| Others                     | 21,320,000  | 21%  | 26,420,000  | 22%  | 38,941,000  | 28%  |
| Total Expenditures         | 100,850,000 | 100% | 119,090,000 | 100% | 141,227,000 | 100% |
| Ending Cash Balance:       | 18,580,000  |      | 34,650,000  |      | 36,172,000  |      |

## Funds Released to the Congressional District of Siquijor *by Rene Rocamora*

If you wonder how much taxpayers' money is being allocated to Siquijor, the table below shows a portion of how much is allocated to the congressional district of Siquijor each year. Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P17, 500,000.00) have been released to various projects. The implementing agency is the Department of Public Works & Highways. As for the progress of these projects, you will have to physically check for yourself.

### CONGRESSIONAL ALLOCATION, SECOND SEMESTER, CY 2001 As of November 5, 2001

| Name of Project<br>Location                               | Amount            | Name of Project<br>Location                                    | Amount            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>A. HIGHWAYS (ROADS AND BRIDGES)</b>                    | <b>11,500,000</b> | <b>B. WATER SUPPLY</b>                                         | <b>5,000,000</b>  |
| 1. Improvement of National Highway                        | 8,000,000         | 1. Waterworks System, Logucan Maria                            | 200,000           |
| 2. Farm to Market Road, Sitio Kalubian, Catamboan, Larena | 500,000           | 2. Waterworks System, Cang-atuyom Siquijor                     | 300,000           |
| 3. Farm to Market Road, Sitio Cang-abas Gabayan,, Lazi    | 500,000           | 3. Waterworks System, Cang-asa Siquijor                        | 500,000           |
| 4. Farm to Market Road, Basac, Larena                     | 500,000           | 4. Waterworks, Sitio Cangbalaguio, Cangmunag, San Juan         | 500,000           |
| 5. Farm to Market Road, Helen, Larena                     | 500,000           | 5. Waterworks System, Kimba Lazi                               | 750,000           |
| 6. Farm to Market Road, Nabutay, Maria                    | 500,000           | 6. Waterworks System, Napo, San Juan                           | 750,000           |
| 7. Farm to Market Road, Tigbawan, (Lunoy FMR & Bridge)    | 1,000,000         | 7. Waterworks System, Tagmanocan, Nagerong, & Simacolong, Lazi | 2,000,000         |
| <b>C. OTHER PUBLIC WORKS</b>                              | <b>1,000,000</b>  |                                                                |                   |
| School Buildings                                          | 1,000,000         |                                                                |                   |
| 1. Kinamandagan, Lazi                                     | 500,000           |                                                                |                   |
| 2. Poo, Lazi                                              | 500,000           |                                                                |                   |
|                                                           |                   | <b>Total amount released</b>                                   | <b>17,500,000</b> |

## P7.5 Million PDAF Funds Released to Municipality of Lazi

The table on the right shows the Priority Development Assistance Fund that was released to the Congressional District of Siquijor. The implementing agency is LGU/Municipality of Lazi, Siquijor.

### PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND CONGRESSIONAL ALLOCATION, SECOND TRANCHE, CY 2001 As of November 5, 2001

| Name of Project<br>Location                                                                  | Amount           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Financial support for priority development programs and projects in the Province of Siquijor | 7,500,000        |
| <b>Total Amount Released</b>                                                                 | <b>7,500,000</b> |

## A nightmare if it is true? *by Carmeña Luz Y. Miraflor*

The disturbing news of guns being gifted to the barangay captains by the congressman of the province of Siquijor is an unmitigated disaster waiting to happen. It is not unlikely that this move is endorsed with paternal blessing from the governor of the island, his father. With majority of the population suffering from poverty and hunger, you'd think that the gift would be plowshares instead of swords. The congressman would just as soon turn this idyllic, peaceful island province into a den of petty warlords suddenly empowered by a deadly weapon, a virtual private army, to do their bidding. It is bad enough that petty vindictiveness has already been wrought upon non-supporters of the incumbent powers-that-be, but to arm barangay captains with guns is nothing but a deadly ploy to cow the people even more.

You have to know the island people to realize how the mere possession of a gun by anyone can intimidate the average resident into a life of fear and submission. The congressman would force this fun-loving, gentle people, his constituents into a life that would now be bereft of innocent joy; a life lived in terror and paranoia. Guns in the hands of a few will sadly change our island culture of peace and fraternity into one of hostility, guarded whispers, at worst betrayals and paranoia among otherwise a peace-loving people. Guns will cleave friendships and fealty to one an-

other to pieces. Guns will kill a civilization of rusticated living, but one so idyllic, peace-loving, abounding with hospitality, trust and neighborliness. Already politics have wreaked havoc among the people, not to mention families that have been rifted asunder. Think what guns would do to a society already rendered fractured and fragile.. People leave the island to rise firstly above their economic deprivation or to attain better education elsewhere. These people virtually plow back their earnings to families left behind. It is not because of any government effort to improve the quality of lives that you see private and personal improvements. The beautiful homes that have arisen in the last decade and ownership of private vehicles are the results of individual endeavor, mostly of OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) and other island sons and daughters who have left and found gainful employment elsewhere in the archipelago. Heaven forbid that people flee because terror taken hold on this small island!

Why guns? Why not books? Why not medicines and medical equipment for our public hospitals and rural health clinics that are perennially short of supply? Why not seeds and plowshares for the community to develop backyard farming? Instead of a constant supply of ammunition, why not a constant supply of rice to the poor and hungry? How about a sorely needed environmental

study and implementation of programs for the protection and preservation of our watersheds and rivers? How about school supplies to relieve teachers of having to spend their own for crayons, cartolinas, and such? WHY GUNS? JUST WHAT IS THE JUSTIFICATION to arm the barangay captains? Are we in imminent danger of an attack by outside forces that we must arm our barangay captains? Who could these forces be? The NPA? The Abu Sayyaf? The Palestinians? The Israelis? Or could the "imminent danger" come from those who might oppose the administration in the upcoming elections? Has the congressman lost faith and confidence in our local PNP force that he must arm the barangay captains as well? Are we to become a "militarized zone"? Who is the enemy?

What right does the congressman have to arm a few with funds that should benefit every citizen of Siquijor? This is TAX MONEY that should judiciously, prudently and equitably be spent on programs and projects that benefit the citizenry and not just the barrio captains. What guarantee does the island have that these barrio captains would not abuse the possession of a mighty tool as a gun? Folks, if this is a fait accompli, then Siquijor is doomed. This is a lamentable move. A misguided generosity. Utter tragedy. A nightmare.

## Siquijor Congressman Defends Gift of Guns to Barrio Captains

Mrs. Carmenia Miraflor

Dear Madam Carmen,

It is a strongly written piece of opinion, the one you wrote about us "gifting" barangay captains with guns. But given your mindset and the rest of your lot, I do not expect any sense of fairness in the way you portray things in your website. It is in fact geared into attacking us at every turn so that it is very obviously a tool for political propaganda rather than for the promotion of any genuine Siquijor interest.

We have never "gifted" the barangay captains with guns. That is wrong English in the first place because a gift is either a noun or an adjective and is not a verb that you can conjugate in the past tense the way that you did. The matter took root when the Association of Barangay Captains of Lazi filed a joint resolution asking our office that they be furnished with firearms to assist them in the discharge of their functions. In other words, the proposal did not come from us but from them. There is no discrimination against any barangay captain too, whether they be allied or not with us, because everyone of them except the

lady captain of Capalasanan who declined to receive her share, is provided with one handgun each.

Even without the request however, I am strongly supporting the proposal. A gun does not a killer make, because it does not shoot at all if not for the person aiming it. It is like a scalpel wielded by whose hand. If it were held by a criminal, the knife would probably be utilized for a criminal purpose and is therefore dangerous, but if it were used by a surgeon in some surgical operation it serves humanity and justly deserves our

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

commendation. Just because the Barangay Captain owns a gun does not mean that he will sooner start shooting any more than the manangute with his scythe will start slicing heads off. In other words, a gun or a knife is just as good as the person who wields it. We have absolute trust in the integrity of our Barangay Captains. They are ardent believers in the rule of law. They are worth the trust of their constituents. That explains why they won their elections. Each of them has never been accused of nor committed any infraction of the law, much less of terrorism during elections. Such has not happened in Siquijor politics under our watch. I won my elections fair and square too, in unprecedented majorities not hitherto enjoyed by a candidate for Siquijor's lone congressional seat with only my good name and performance to boot. I think my appraisal of our Barangay Captains would be more credible than yours because I live with them all the days of my life, unlike you who formulate your judgment a thousand miles away and who, in all probability is not even acquainted with anyone of them for the simple reason that you only get to go home to Lazi for a couple of days several years apart. A barangay captain is a person in authority. Under Philippine law he is allowed to carry a firearm, not to shoot nor to commit any act of hooliganism as you wish them to do, but as a symbol and a complement of his authority and office. We have been consulting with our local PNP and the populace on

the matter and their response is quite of elation and encouragement. We have less than ten (10) police officers assigned at the Lazi Police Station. With about 18,000 townfolk, the ratio is one (1) policeman for every 1,800 residents. We have only one patrol car making the rounds in all of our 18 barangays spread in 7,064 square kilometers. The area and its population are too large a tour of duty for our police force to handle. Any contribution extended to assist in maintaining peace and order is therefore most welcome. You speak of the need for plowshares and medicines, of school materials and farm inputs. I wonder if your mole has done her research very well. A congressman is allotted 35 million a year, you know this because as is your wont in publishing any material that is seemingly derogatory to us, you have annexed a clipping of an editorial from the Philippine Star on the matter on your website.

The fund allotted for the procurement of the hand guns is only P285,000.00. In other words, there is 34 million and some 715,000 pesos more that stands as balance after this transaction. The amount used to procure the handguns is a mere .8 % of the budget. Did not your mole tell you how many roads we have built and rehabilitated, how many school buildings we have constructed, how many medicines we have distributed free of charge, how many educational materials we have given to our schools and how much we have allotted for farm inputs with the balance of 92.2 percent of our appropriations?

You yourself acknowledge the influx of private vehicles and the construction of fine homes in the province although you grumble that the money that was used to buy them did not come from government. Of course, even in America your government does not pay the amortization on your cars for you nor pay the mortgages on your homes. But is it not a measure of the fine road network we have that vehicle owners now want to drive in Siquijor with their new cars? Are not the peaceable nature and the dynamism of the local leaders part of the consideration of the homebuilder to build his house in our province? At the rate your family is pitting its own candidates each election, the time might someday come that you will succeed in having yourselves elected as the leaders of our province. I shall have no regrets if and when that moment arrives because it is one of the consequences of democracy. We come and go at the pleasure of our people. But until then, I shall do my duty in accordance with the light that my conscience and my principles shall allow me to do that duty. In the meantime you can live with your nightmares in America. I and our people find them irrelevant and non existent in Siquijor. Unlike you we do not fear them here. I do not even think that you will have the inward courage to print this letter in full in your political website.

Very truly yours,

Congressman ORLANDO A. FUA, JR.

## "On Swords and Plowshares" *by CarmeñaLuz Y. Miraflor*

Congressman Orlando A. Fua, Jr.  
Lazi, Siquijor

Dear Congressman Fua:

I am moving our correspondence to the Siquijor Voices and Opinion section of the website Siquijor.Com. Perhaps you should have sent your reply to it in the first place instead of sending it privately to me since I started this discussion openly through that forum. I am sending this reply to the website as is appropriate to keep this discussion open for everybody to see and perhaps join in.

Let me thank you first of all for the courtesy of your reply. It is a healthy sign that bodes well for more open discussions in the future on issues germane to the public interest of the island. For not, let's focus on the issue at hand: the guns!

The issue here is the wisdom of your gifting the barrio captains of Lazi with guns. By saying that I wish the barrio captains to be hooligans, you have completely misread the message of my previous letter. Au contraire, Mr. Congressman, I wish no one, including civilians in positions of authority, but the police and the military to carry

guns. They go through rigid training for its use. I asked you to explain the JUSTIFICATION for the issuance of arms to the barrio captains. You have not satisfactorily answered this question.

In saying that by a majority vote, the Association of Barrio Captains of Lazi where your brother is the mayor, initiated the move to possess handguns in order to assist them "discharge their functions". You might have asked what drove them to ask for guns and how or when they were going to use them. Could you have said "no" and have offered them alternatives such as leadership seminars to enhance their perform-

ance as first level leaders? You say that a barrio captain is a person of authority and carrying a gun is a symbol of such authority. There are other persons of authority such as the town council, the teachers, the parish priests, the health personnel, etc. Are they to be armed too? Citing the statistical ratio of gun ownership to population size does not wash. Its legality is also not the issue but its morality vis-à-vis the priority of improving the quality of life of the people whose per capita income falls below the poverty level. Lazi, and for that matter the whole island, still enjoys relative peace. There is no lawlessness to warrant gun-toting barrio captains. Is a barrio captain now licensed to solve neighborhood disputes using of a gun? How would a gun help? Let's assume that two neighbors are fighting over property borders. Where/when/how does the presence of a gun become useful? How will a gun settle disputes at the barangay level? You have set a precedent for the island, and so is it safe to assume that you are prepared, at least budget wise, to provide the rest of the barrio captains with guns? How many altogether does the island have? 50? 60? Just what is the ideal ratio of gun ownership to the general population since you cited the current ratio (Lazi sampling) is inadequate. If more police officers are required, why not hire more? Who gets to train the barrio captains with regard to responsible use of guns and to whom are they accountable?

Deteriorating peace and order situation in the province is the only valid reason that will justify the issuance of guns to the barrio captains. For the entire year 2001, the PNP headquarters at Region VII logged a total of eleven (11) criminal incidents for the entire island province of Siquijor, and nil, so far, in 2002. Thank God for this!

Even if we were to include any unreported beatings and other felonies that occur every now and then, we are still far from needing guns. In sum, peace is with us in the island. It is sheer frivolity, if not dangerous to issue lethal weapons to the barrio captains to enhance their authority with its possession when precious little funds could more prudently be applied on more urgent needs.

Let's assume that there is lawlessness.

What are these? Burglary? Theft? Vandalism? Rape? Mugging? Drug use and trafficking? Spousal abuse? Would a barrio captain use a gun to prevent these crimes from happening? How? Wouldn't that be tantamount to making him/her police, judge and executioner? How would a barrio captain respond to a burglary in progress a kilometer away? How would he use his gun to solve the problem of drug abuse occurring right there in the social center or elsewhere? We would hope that he is there to stop when the violent crime of rape is perpetrated upon a victim but such a scenario is unlikely. In the instance of any felony, the role of the barrio captain here should be to ferret out the truth, without fear or favor, and to report his findings to appropriate higher authorities. A barrio captain does not need a gun to discharge this function. He was not elected to perform police functions.

Mr. Congressman, a barangay captain lives among his neighbors and must discharge his duties impartially and knowledgeably. Instead of empowering him with a gun, he should be empowered with the basic knowledge of civil rights, the law and local ordinances. These can be achieved through seminars. His constituents are not his adversaries. If the protagonists before him are unable to resolve their disputes in his court, then he should advise them to take it up to the next higher authority. It behooves him/her to be able to articulate policies without prejudice.

May I suggest a better tool for the barrio captains instead of guns? Arm them with cellphones that they can use in the event of police or medical emergencies. Subsidize the maintenance (batteries) and business-related calls such as calls to the local doctor or the police to rush to the locality of the emergency. This is so simple, much more cost-effective and truly helpful. The issuance of cellphones is genuinely being responsive to the needs of the constituents, especially to those who live in remote areas where there are no vehicles on standby to rush them to the hospital or the police station as needed. Two-way radios would work too and may be less expensive to maintain in the long run.

A gun could not function better than cellphones or 2-way radios, unless the motive is to maim or worse, to kill. To

glorify it as a symbol of authority is irresponsible and dangerous. The power of a gun is intimidating as opposed to the cellphone or 2-way radio which is a whole lot friendlier and more useful. A cellphone could save lives especially if time factors in life-threatening emergencies.

You argue that a gun is a tool equivalent to a manangute's sanggot or that of a doctor's scalpel. I beg to disagree, Mr. Congressman. Last I heard, the sanggot is a tool used by the manangute to earn a living. The scalpel is also a tool surgeons use to save lives. The lowly put-put, for that matter, is used as firewood for cooking and therefore has a life-sustaining function. I don't see any other purpose for a gun but to shoot at a target, which, God forbid, is a human being, guilty of a crime or not!

The plowshare I am talking about is beyond the band-aid solutions to our health care and social problems and livelihood issues on the island, the root of which is poverty. It addresses issues on multi-pointed self-sufficiency through province-wide, small-scale farming, organized for volume so that the people of Siquijor can ride on the export bandwagon. Please refer to my open letter to Dr. Ramon Taroc on the same website. Economic deliverance is the key. Since we do not have the infrastructure to support income-generating industries, it would behoove the administration to look into agri-business alternatives and pour its meager resources therein. Gun distribution does not lead us to a modicum of economic independence. Your roads to market are of no use if we are not producing anything to market!

Plowshares in Siquijor figuratively imply a government push for sustainable agricultural development in Siquijor to a level of production that will enable the island folks to earn more cash that in the end will improve the overall quality of their lives. Maybe for once, the island can genuinely contribute to the GNP and earn respect. Cash in people's pockets will allow them flexibility and enable them to send their children to schools for higher education as well as obtain health care without incurring so much debt. In no way can a gun help our economy. Instead of guns, mini-tractors (I saw one in [Dumaguete page 7](#))

(Continued from page 6)

December, four times smaller than the one you use in your Tagmanocan fields) could be distributed to the barrios to ease the backbreaking burden of our farmers who have to till the soil manually. These tractors can be transported from acre to acre on a truck and be made accessible to farmers wherever there is a field to till. This is a subsidy that could work and on a linear scale, could eventually pull out the poorest of the poor from the clutches of abject poverty and hunger. Now, let's address the improvements on the island. The roads. Yes, they are widened and yes they are better than the roads we used to have decades ago. My question is why the quality of the road surface is still poor, for all the money that has been poured into its construction over the years. The asphalt that presumably holds the surface together is nothing but a slurry paste of poor quality that erodes with every heavy rainfall. And please don't tell me I do not know what I am talking about. One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to know that the roads

are still substandard with the exception perhaps of the cemented section in Naherong to the Señora river. I have talked to people who helped design multi-billion engineering projects all over the world and who have seen and driven on the roads you talk about. Quality sags. Lack of money is not an excuse. So much money has been wasted on unending repairs, year in and year out, because the job was sloppily done to begin with. Is this by design to justify more road construction and repair contracts in the next year, and the next? Do you wonder why we do not celebrate? Wouldn't it have been a more judicious use of funds if roads were constructed at high standard at the start and thereby avoid costly repairs every year? This way, we could save money for other purposes. There are more urgent needs than GUNS that I can think of. For instance, we could purchase a dialysis machine for the island, or replace antiquated medical equipment in our hospitals or firetrucks and ambulances that are either rusting or no longer roadworthy.

Finally, Mr. Congressman, Max Soliven, publisher of the widely circulated Philippine Star, authored the article about the pork of P50 million allotted to each congressman every year. You say the correct figure is only P35M. That's a big drop from P50M! It behooves you to pursue this discrepancy. You should complain to Soliven for inaccurate reporting and require him to amend his figures because to leave his report unchallenged puts you in a bad light. And don't shoot the messenger, Mr. Congressman. To be continued. Yours truly,

CarmeñaLuz Yurong Miraflores

BTW, allow me a line regarding the word "gifted". Source: (Webster's New World Dictionary 1978)  
 Gift – 1. n. a natural ability; talent  
 2. vt. to present with or as a gift-  
 Source: (The American Heritage Dictionary, 1985)  
 1. The act, right, or power of giving

In legalese, I rest my case.

## Fua's Record at a Glance *by Rene Rocamora*

Here are some facts and figures. The table below represents Rep. Fua's record in the Philippine House of Representatives:

During the 9th Congress, there were 16,077 House Bills (HB) and House Resolutions (HR) authored by the 222 members of the House of Representatives. Of the total bills and resolutions the average per member is 72 and the median is 42. There were 91 members who had less than 8 HB (National), 58 who had less than 9 HB (Local), 97 who had

less than 2 HR (National), 86 who had 0 HR (Local) and 44 members who had less than 19 total HBs and HRs authored.

During the 10th Congress, there were 12,162 House Bills (HB) and House Resolutions (HR) authored by the 228 members of the House of Representatives. Of the total bills and resolutions the average per member is 53 and the median is 34. There were 111 members who had less than 10 HB (National), 70 who had less than 7 HB (Local), 77

who had 0 HR (National), 153 who had less than 3 HR (Local), and 79 members who had less than 20 total HBs and HRs authored.

During the 11th Congress, there were 14,971 House Bills (HB) and House Resolutions (HR) authored by the 222 members of the House of Representatives. Of the total bills and resolutions the average per member is 67 and the median is 38. There were 45 members who had less than 3 HB (National), 21 who had less than 2 HB (Local), 63 who had 0 HR (National), 46 who had 0 HR (Local) and 8 members who had less than 5 total HBs and HRs authored. Notable house members during the 11th congress are Rep. Joker Arroyo who had a total of 3 HBs and HRs authored and Rep. Romeo Jalosjos who had a total of 5 HBs and HRs authored.

### Attendance Record

Regarding Fua's attendance record during the first session of the 12th Congress which ran from July 23, 2001 to No-  
*(Continued on page 8)*

### Congressman Fua's Legislative Record

|               | HB<br>(National) | HB<br>(Local) | HR<br>(National) | HR<br>(Local) | TOTAL |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-------|
| 8th Congress  | 0                | 0             | 0                | 0             | 0     |
| 9th Congress  | 8                | 9             | 2                | 0             | 19    |
| 10th Congress | 10               | 7             | 0                | 3             | 20    |
| 11th Congress | 3                | 2             | 0                | 0             | 5     |

HB = House Bill  
 HR = House Resolution



**If you have the knack to write newstories and an eye for breaking news in Siquijor, please contact us.**

**You will be compensated for your work and the chance to be read by people all over the world!**

*Intuitive -  
Provocative -  
Informative*



## In The Mood by Alex Pal—Visayan Daily Star

Whenever I am pressed for time with deadlines, like now, I am tempted to wish that my newspaper would adopt the slogan of the newspaper of the Tanjay organization of the USA, found in [www.tanjay.org](http://www.tanjay.org). This group has a newspaper, called Ang Tanjayanon, which is "published when in the mood." Apparently, the last time they were in the mood was in July of last year because that was the last time they updated their website. I do hope the Tanjay organization of the US is all right. The DAILY STAR counts the members of this group among its steadfast readers. Last year, some members of this group responded to a call for help and contributed money for the welfare of baby sea turtles at the Silliman Marine Laboratory.

But if you are viewing the website for the first time, you won't notice the time difference because in this issue, they invite us to the Tanjay fiesta, which is next month! Also, the stories which they feature are timeless. I like that one about the search for a monicker of the new city of Tanjay. I guess up to now, they have yet to find an appropriate monicker.

The name of the writer escapes me, but this one said

"I write only when I'm in the mood. And I make it a point to be in the mood every 9 o'clock!" That might be a friendly advice for our Tanjayanon friends in the US.

There is also what I would call a "more serious" website of a group in the US which has close links to home. This is the [www.siquijor.com](http://www.siquijor.com). I say serious because they try, even with the physical distance, to get involved in the progress and state of affairs of their beloved province.

Like now, the hottest thing in their website is an exchange of letters between California-based Siquijodnon, Carmenta Mirafior, and Rep. Orlando Fua Jr. regarding the purchase of guns for the barangay captains of Lazi town. Mirafior first wrote that the report of barangay captains being given guns was disturbing. Instead of guns, the people could benefit from seeds, plows or books. Mirafior said there was no need, whatsoever, to give guns to barangay captains to enable them to carry out their jobs because Siquijor is a very peaceful province.

Well, Rep. Fua was not pleased. He wrote a reply ridiculing Mirafior for her grammar and accusing Siquijor.com of being nothing but a tool for political propaganda. Fua also justified the

need for the guns. He said it was perfectly safe to give guns to the barangay captains because they had not terrorized their constituents in the past. Ergo, they will not do so in the future. Fua said with the very few policemen in the province, there was a need to complement their strength with the barangay captains, who can assist in looking over the peace and order in their town.

Fua also made many more utterances in his letter that I would rather not mention in this column because they seemed to deviate from the main argument. But that should not prevent you from going over to that website and read all about it. And you can judge who among the two protagonists is talking in sense.

But I find this exchange between Fua and his critics through this website as a healthy sign. I doubt if any other provincial website in the Philippines is as controversial as this one. If taken in the light of professionalism and transparency in local governance, Siquijor.com is doing a great service for the people of Siquijor.

I hope the webmasters of Siquijor.com are in the mood all the time.\*

## Watch for our next issue of Siquijor Offline

*(Continued from page 7)*  
vember 20, 2001, Fua was present 33 days of the 36 total number of session days. The 3 days that he was not present was when he was on official mission for 1 day and 2 days on conference. There were 90 members who were present less than 33 days, 100 who were present 33 days and 24 who

were present more than 33 days. 100 members were absent less than 3 days, 82 who were absent more than 3 days and 24 who were absent 3 days.

Notable house members are Rep. Carlos Cojuangco who was absent half of total session days, (13 days, official mission; 1 day conference; 1

day sick; 3 days absent with notice) and Rep. Romeo Jalosjos who was absent all of the 36 regular session days. The reason being he was detained at New Bilibid Prison serving double life sentences for being convicted of raping an eleven-year-old girl.