



“The pen is mightier than the sword.”

Ben Emata Jr.

ben_emata@yahoo.com

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - - I have been here for nearly a month and you beat it, I have gone around to almost all corners of the grand city of my dream, of course not San Francisco, but the old Cagayan de Oro.

Oh yes I crossed the controversial beautiful Pelaez bridge that shortened the distance between the City downtown and the Airport. I saw its grandeur! I looked at it as if I were a bird flying high to get a better view of how things were linked to make possible what I thought was an impossible project.

Lawndale as we had admitted it many years ago was a brilliant project of then Mayor Nene Pimentel. I enjoyed swimming the clean, cool water in the largest pool with flowing water direct from a spring. It was in this great swimming pool that my small kids learned how to swim. We used to have picnics every weekend in those nice moments of the early 80's. Of course, I miss now those days especially the memories with my small kids who are now grown up and scattered throughout the world.

As I drove through the winding, up and down newly paved highway, I saw just shadows of the tall trees and grasses of the yesteryears completely gone. They were replaced by what I thought were low-cost housing projects that lord it out in the panoramic scenes of Cagayan de Oro's backstage. The rolling hills around still show its wondrous, cascading beauty that made me think the opening to civilization of the area alone, is some sort of an unwitting natural presentation that impresses man.

I was amazed at the gigantic project. There were few vehicles using it now but I could see the bottleneck in traffic in five to ten years. This area will cutt out the heavy influx of motor vehicles passing through the old, excessively-abused Vamenta Avenue in Carmen covering the short distance between Lumbia area and Cogon market.

I really don't have any idea who initiated the establishment of the Pelaez bridge but whoever did it, is definitely a politician who has a soul



“The pen is mightier than the sword.”

Ben Emata Jr.

ben_emata@yahoo.com

that speaks. As I said earlier, I don't mind about the bickering of local politicians but I judge my points from the natural vantage of what I saw. The Pelaez bridge is a great public structure at this point in time. This bridge can never be a mistake even looking at its service 30 years from now when traffic shall have been multiplied to maybe 30 times. Unlike the city streets of Cagayan de Oro whose leaders in the 20's never had in mind someday, somehow, a Quiapo style traffic congestion will come, the bridge will stand strong and proud of its service. I commend the people who made it possible and be ready for the traffic problem in the next five years

We don't see the problems now. There is hardly any around but wait when some giant investors from Manila and some Asian countries fix their sights in this fast growing metropolis - - and you will see the growth of Cagayan de Oro will startle the people in such far-flung barangays neare the Imbatug area. Nobody can hold the expansion of this city - - just let the leaders be prepared and never miscalculate growth. (BEN EMATA)