



“The pen is mightier than the sword.”

Ben Emata Jr.

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UNDER MAYOR DONGCOY EMANO

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - - I don't mind so much about the politics in Cagayan de Oro or anywhere else in Misamis Oriental. I am partly a Westerner now, an American boy in particular whose mind is not tied to politics as I used to be many, many years ago.

In the United States of America, politics is discussed only during elections and political campaigns. The word politics vanished hours after the elections as the losing candidates concede to their defeat. Immediately after, the winning and losing candidates become closed friends again and make plans for the success of the country and government.

My orientation, therefore, is such that I forget politics minutes after knowing who won in the race. And I don't build or maintain hatred with any of the candidates. I just forgot politics and never discuss with anyone any issues involved. That is me and nearly hundred percent of the Americans. To us politics is a waste of time and effort and should not hamper our objectives towards work and earning. We mind our own business specially in raking incomes for our future and the future of our children.

As I go around the ever beautiful city of Cagayan de Oro, I saw a lot of things that never before were there. I saw the soon-to-be inaugurated Cogon public market - - a modern public structure that is expected to change, in its entirety, the face of the city. So beautiful, so modern, a four-storey edifice that would send to their senses people from Luzon. The land area involved in the construction is the same but it is developed towards the sky thus the space created is four times against the original floor area. This is certainly very impressive and no matter what, it would give Mayor Emano some kind of praises and honors.



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I saw the new bridge that was heavily criticized for its excessive spending. It is located near Lawndale spring and drive through the area near the airport. Right now the bridge is not so useful but I can see in five to ten years the heavy influx of traffic derived from excesses in the two existing bridges. I even think another bridge is necessary at this juncture.

The living and the dead

There is no other place in the world where the living and the dead were as closed to each other as in the area near the Cagayan Airport. Yeah, they are neighbors and they exist side by side as such. Beautiful cemeteries are located in this area and adjacent to equally beautiful plus villages and subdivisiona. So the dead enjoy beautiful flowers each day from its neighbors - - the living while the latter enjoys the thought of being very near to their loved ones - - the dead.

High rise buildings have mushroomed in the downtown Cagayan de Oro and believe it or not I got lost many times specially when I get home in the wee hours of the morning. Plaza Divisoria which is now known as the Golden Friendship park is now even friendlier than ever. It now offers a comfort room, so streamlined, that I don't notice any foul odor. Nearby are Hongkong style fast food, beerhouses, Internet cafe, newstand, communication offices and many more. City streets remained narrow but the growth of the city is apparent in the size and height of the buildings.

Barangays Carmen, Bulua, Lapasan, Gusa and Bugo have become what look like smaller cities within the bigger metropolis. I would suggest Carmen becomes first as another city within. It has its own appearance to become as such and just a back up of a formal legislation and this place would become a beautiful city bigger than some cities in Mindanao.

I have been here two weeks already and I really stumbled to many good things that impressed me. As a media practitioner, I admire Mayor Emano for these things. It is true this guy got irritated with me for the



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many criticism I attributed to him. Two times in the past this guy nearly filed libel suits against me for the same reasons but our relationship were strictly between government official and mediaman. At times we are friends, at times we faced the battleground.

Speaking of our senator, how can we be so ungrateful to the good, fighting senator, Nene Pimentel? I heard from some irresponsible toungues that Nene's image is now in history in the city. If you can not get a good view of Nene in a very near distance, try to look at him from a far, far distance and I am sure youi will admire the man. As our city mayor before, I respected him so well. Until now I have a high respect of this man for being hardworking and a fighting senator in the senate that really fights for the interest of the Filipinos.

I look at Nene, Dongcoy, Gov. Oski Moreno and Congressman Jaraula as people who made our city and province as pleasant as possile to live in. I admire them for their efforts and I look forward for a more beautiful city and province in the coming years (BEN EMATA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA)