

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - YEAR 2005

INTRODUCTION

Members of this august body, Hon. Vice Mayor Jose C. Ledda, Jr. and the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, Hon. Edwin G. Abris, Hon. Ellen Grace N. Subere, Hon. Rodolfo Aguilar, Hon. Rose Dideles, Hon. Rebecca Bona, Hon. Jose Henry D. Aguirre, Hon. Sergio S. Morales, Jr., Hon. Ester M. Catorce, Hon. Phinney Araquil, Hon. Marie Antonina Hurtado, Hon. Roberto L. Sunga, Hon. Mel Joy Camariñas, and SP Secretary Ms. Marites R. Domato. To the department heads Mr. Eufrosino P. Inamarga, Jr., City Treasurer, Engr. Stephen D. Ende, City Engineer, Engr. Arthur R. Buzarang, OIC-City Assessor, Mrs. Lilia F. Salazar, CGS Officer, Dr. Raymundo Prieto, OIC City Health Officer, Mrs. Emelita Miguel, City Agriculturist, Mrs. Hazel A. Lebanan, Acting City Administrator, Mrs. Marilou Dimacaling, City Cooperative Officer, Dr. Charlemagne Calo, City Veterinarian, Mrs. Nancy Adalin, City Population Officer, Mr. Augustus Bretaña and OIC CENRO; to our PNP men headed by P/Supt. Florendo Quidilla, officers and men of Bureau of Fire Protection, BJMP, Traffic Section and Task Force Kaayusan; government officials from the Department of Education, public and private schools, colleges and universities; representatives from the Girls and Boys Scout of the Philippines; section chiefs, government employees of the city government, provincial officials and employees, officials from regional offices and other line agencies, teachers, students, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

My constant visits to the barangays enabled me to witness the real scenario of our folks' way of life, many are still less fortunate. Thus, it has been my strong commitment to further enhance the delivery of government services to help our people free themselves from the bondage of poverty. In 2004, a paradigm shift from AGRICULTOURISM into a simpler and more focused PEOPLE and LAND development agenda had been adopted by this administration to better address this goal.

LAND development is aimed at enhancing the mobility of people and products as well as in enhancing their access to facilities and utilities. It also covers the protection and conservation of our environment and the appropriate land uses. While PEOPLE development delves on the formation or reformation of our people into responsible and self-reliant constituents of our society.

Population and Land Area

The City Government of Koronadal served its 143,231 population in 2004. An estimated 63,666 workforce, 74,368 children, and 5,197 adults above 65 years of age comprised our population. This total population was distributed in the 27,700-hectare land area of the City of Koronadal. Sixty seven thousand four hundred seventy eight (67,478) live in the urban center while 75,753 of these populace are in the rural center. In terms of land area, the urban center composed 7% of the total area or an area of 2,011.27 hectares, consequently, the rural area is 93% or 25,688.73 hectares. Correlating the corresponding land area of the urban and rural centers to its respective number of population, would register a population density of 34 persons per hectare in the urban center and a population density of 3 persons in the rural center. The distribution of our people both in terms of group composition and population density were among the factors considered in determining our priorities and specific interventions in 2004.

Workforce

Through the concerted efforts of the 720 human resources of the city government that include the elected officials, regular and co-terminus plantilla personnel, and contractual employees, this administration had delivered what must be provided to our people in 2004. Much as we would still want to deliver more to our people, we are now in the process of re-engineering our organizational structure to fit our city operation. The re-engineering that will determine the appropriate number of our workforce will more than double our existing personnel. "Ini naga pakita lamang nga sa subong sa pihak sang kakulangan sang aton mga empleyado nagpaninguha gid ang ciudad nga mahatag ang para sa katawhan."

Financial Resources

Ang kabilugan nga gin approbahan nga budget para sa operation sang ciudad sa tuig 2004 nagkantidad sang P 298,896,206.00. The sources of this fund are the following: Internal Revenue Allotment, Local Income, Surplus from 2003 operation and others.

The appropriation of this amount were as follows:

Personal Services P 80,674,993.00
MOOE 58,881,021.00
Others 9,496,547.00
Development Funds 149,843,645.00

Ang Development Funds amo ang ginatagaan sang daku nga pagtalupangod sang ciudad para nga maimplementar gid naton ang mga development projects subong. Kon susihon ang Local Government Code nagarequire lamang sa mga LGU's sang 20% nga parte sang IRA para sa Development Projects samtang ang P149,843,645 Development Funds para sa 2004 68% sang P221,094,347 nga IRA sang ciudad.

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN OUR 2004 OPERATION

To be true to my commitment, this administration through the strong support of the Sangguniang Panlungsod and the City Development Council had appropriated the P 149,843,645.00 development funds for LAND and PEOPLE Development Programs and Projects. Specifically distributed into the following:

For LAND Development we have:

Infrastructure Dev't. Sector P 42,680,348.00
Environment 15,556,034.00
Total P 58,236,382.00

PEOPLE Development on the other hand got the bigger slice of the budget:

Social Development Sector P 41,642,623.00
Development Admin. 22,174,468.00
Economic 27,790,172.00
Total P 91,607,263.00

LAND DEVELOPMENT

Generally, out of the P 42,680,348.00 budget for Infrastructure Projects in 2004, the completed infrastructure projects at the end of the year already amounted to P 17,527,943. Aside from these, in year 2004, we also implemented infra-projects that were funded under the Annual Investment Plan (AIP) and Supplemental Investment Plans (SIPs) of 2003 amounting to P 24,997,330.00.

Road Network

The high population density and the daily large influx of people in the urban center due to its dynamic economic and social activities prompted the city government to prioritize the implementation of various LAND Development projects in the poblacion. Improvement of road network within the urban center has become necessary to cater the need for accessibility and mobility of the commuters and the transacting public and to spur more vibrant economic activities in the city. Amo nga ang ciudad naningkamot nga makaimplementar sa mga masunod nga mga proyekto sa urban center o kon poblacion:

- 2 km. road opening connecting Brgy. Caloocan, Morales & Zone I amounting to P 2,000,000.00
- Construction of RCDG Bridge, in Lower Paredes, Brgy. Zone I amounting to P 2,222,230.00
- Concreting of San Pablo St. in Brgy. G.P.S. amounting to P 1,042,000.00

- Concreting of Calaliman St., Brgy. G.P.S. amounting to P 124,000.00
- Concreting of Osmeña St., Brgy. Zone II amounting to P 1,262,800.00
- Concreting of Junction Arellano St. and Osita Block I, Brgy. Zone II amounting to P 1,260,800.00
- Concreting of Confessor St., Brgy. Zone II amounting to P 1,081,200.00
- Rehabilitation of canal with Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter, Osmeña St., Brgy. Zone II amounting to P 4,609,500
- Concreting of Aguinaldo St., Brgy. Zone III, amounting to P 1,360,000.00
- Concreting of Odi St., Brgy. Zone III amounting to P 536,800.00
- Concreting of Sta. Lucia St., Brgy. Zone III amounting to P 616,000.00
- Concreting of Lapu-Lapu St. with Lined Canal, Brgy. Zone III amounting to P 3,020,000.00
- Concreting of Agan San Antonio Road, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, amounting to P 400,000.00
- Concreting of San Sebastian St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 1,075,050.00
- Concreting of Upper Paredes, Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 822,400.00
- Concreting of Lopez Jaena St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 1,219,950.00
- Concreting of Diego Silang St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 512,000.00
- Concreting of Juan Luna St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 994,500.00
- Concreting of Antonio Luna St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 633,500.00
- Concreting of Marcelo H. Del Pilar St., Brgy. Zone IV, P 635,500.00
- Concreting of Gregorio Del Pilar St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 638,500.00
- Concreting of Waling-Waling St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 1,000,000.00
- Construction of Curb and Gutter with sidewalk, Zulueta St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 1,117,000.00
- Construction of Curb and Gutter with sidewalk, Datu Piang St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 1,735,300.00
- Construction of Curb and Gutter with sidewalk, Sinsuat St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 1,704,400.00
- Construction of Curb & Gutter with sidewalk, and lined canal, Jose Rizal St., Brgy. Zone IV, amounting to P 3,965,130.00

Considering that 53% of our 143,231 populations live in the rural areas, this administration had been constantly implementing projects for the improvement of its road network too. Last year, we were able to concrete portions of 3 Provincial Roads that serve as major access to the various barangays of the city. This amounted to P 29,750,000.00. Under the 2004 Annual Investment Plan additional amount of P 16,987,100.00 was approved for the extension of the provincial road concreting projects. These extension projects were already bid last November 2004. Concreting of these Provincial Roads will ease the transport of farm products, goods and delivery of services and will likewise hasten the travel time of commuters to and from the beneficiary barangays. These are the following:

- o The 1,612.90 l.m. G.P.S. to Demo Farm Road that serves the commuters and farmers from barangays Gen. Paulino Santos, Caloocan, Namnama, San Jose, and Avanceña.

o The 1,900 l.m. Alunan Ave. to Brgy. Sta. Cruz Road that serves the commuters and farmers from barangays Sta. Cruz, San Isidro, Mambucal, and Assumption

o The 2,000 l.m. National Highway to Bo. 2 Road that serves the commuters and farmers from barangays Sto. Nino, New Pangasinan, Topland, San Jose, Mabini, Cacub and Esperanza

After our partnership with the Department of Agrarian Reform in the implementation of the ARC projects, the city government had assumed the maintenance of the completed ARC projects in barangays Mabini, Cacub, San Jose and Topland in 2004. An amount of P 2,836,043.00 was appropriated in 2004 for the improvement and maintenance of the said projects. These Farm to Market Roads within the MACASANTO area had been providing easy access and maximum mobility for farm inputs and outputs thereby cutting the cost of transportation. Travel has also become more convenient.

We never forget the far flung barangays of Assumption, Mambucal and San Roque by providing an aggregate amount of P 788,705.00 for the improvement, repair, widening and gravelling of its roads.

With the strong support of the Sangguniang Panlungsod and the City Development Council, I am earnestly hoping that concreting and improvement of all our roads both in the urban and rural centers will be materialized within 5 years. This administration believes that a well paved or maintained road network is a key to the sustainable development of the City of Koronadal.

Support Utilities & Facilities

We acknowledge the importance of providing necessary support facilities and utilities to our constituents thus, its implementation were undertaken in various barangays:

- Extension of Health Center, Brgy. Morales, P 100,000.00
- Fencing of Rizal Park, Brgy. Zone IV, P 1,326,700.00
- Construction of District Health Center, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, P 300,000.00
- Flood Control Phase III, Brgy. G.P.S., P 500,000.00
- Flood Control Phase II, Brgy. San Isidro, P 3,700,000.00
- Construction of Multi-Purpose Bldg., Purok Mariveles, Brgy. Paraiso, P 100,000.00
- Construction of Solar Drier, Purok Makiangayon, Brgy. Esperanza, P 80,000.00
- Construction of Solar Drier, Brgy. San Roque, P 80,000.00
- Completion of the enclosure of Brgy. Plaza, Brgy. Topland, P 300,000.00
- Construction of Stage, Brgy. Rotonda, P 195,867.00
- Construction of Public Market, Brgy. New Pangasinan, P 600,000.00

Sa aton nga pagsuporta sang Food Security Program, nagduso kita sang duha ka irrigation projects sa Department of Agrarian Reform paagi sa ila ARC Program. Gani bag-o magsira ang tuig 2004, 2 ka Communal Irrigation Projects nga nagabili sang P7,210,828.78 ang gin bid. These will be implemented in Brgy. Cacub and Brgy. San Jose and will cater a total of 155 hectares additional rice land. Ang ciudad naghatag sang P3,124,819.63 nga counterpart para sa construction sini nga mga proyekto. I would like to inform our people that projects coming from the national government require the LGUs to put up their own counterpart in the funding.

The projects mentioned are just but a few of the many projects that my administration is lining up for implementation to address our need to develop our land for the benefit of the people of Koronadal.

Environmental Management

The City Government of Koronadal, in compliance with the provisions of R.A. 7160 particularly on environmental management and protection, has established various environment friendly programs. The participation of people towards the cleaning and greening of the community was established under the “Hublag Tinlo Program” of the city. The said program has been spearheaded by the City Government Officials and Employees in coordination with the Barangay Officials in the urban areas. Hopefully, the “Hublag Tinlo Program” will be replicated in other barangays of the city.

I remembered my meeting with the Barangay Captains wherein I introduced the point system. Gusto ko nga maging mapisan ang aton mga lider sa barangays. Paagi sini, ang may pinakamataas nga puntos pagkatapos sing tuig amo ang makadaog sing P 100,000.00 nga premyo kag P 3Million nga kantidad sing proyekto. This will be possible if the SP will support my proposal.

The program of the city on Ecological Solid Waste Management was also established to address the problems on improper solid waste management. As what I have presented during my 100 days State of the City Address, the Ten (10) – Year Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Plan of the City was already approved by the Koronadal Solid Waste Management Board, the City Development Council and the Sangguniang Panlungsod. This was done through the assistance of the EcoGov, our partner towards environmental development. The 10 – Year ESWM Plan will be soon submitted to the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) for approval. We also started scouting for the possible site of our sanitary landfill through the assistance of DENR-Environmental Management Bureau and Mines and Geosciences Bureau. With regard to the garbage collection and transport component of Solid Waste Management Program, the City Government purchased additional 5 – dump trucks for barangays Rotonda, New Pangasinan, Morales, Paraiso and Zone III, and additional 1 unit dump truck for the City Government. The City Government through the organized SWM IEC Advocacy Team and Barangay Speaker’s Bureau has conducted series of orientation seminars on Solid Waste management - Phase I to the different sectors of the locality on proper solid waste management.

Our street sweepers and garbage collectors had been also our partners in maintaining the cleanliness of the central business district. Also, in line with our environment projects, the City Government has appropriated funds for the development and maintenance of Rizal Park, one of the buffer zones in the urban center of the city.

In the observance of this austerity measures by the LGU, I have been increasing and sometimes lessening the number of our street sweepers. My decision depends on the activities of the LGU. Our savings will be included in our surplus at the end of the year.

Moreover, the City Government facilitated the training of 49 upland farmers on upland farming system particularly on Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT). In support to the said project, the city was able to provide fruit bearing and forest trees planting materials to the previously SALT trained upland farmers of Barangays Saravia, Carpenter Hill and Assumption.

An OIC – CENRO was already designated to take charge of the effective and efficient implementation of different environmental programs, projects and activities.

PEOPLE

The City of Koronadal is said to be the City of Peace Loving People. For over 6 decades now, the people of Koronadal have maintained the peace and order it enjoys. Salamat sa aton mga pioneer settlers kag mga ginikanan nga nagtudlo gid sang maayo nga values sa aton agud nga mapadayon naton ang kalinong kag aton paghili-usa sa tunga sang nagakalainlain nga relihiyon kag tribu. The hospitality and high literacy rate of the people of Koronadal likewise make the city conducive to business and a jump-off point to several other tourist destinations within the region.

Seeing the important role of the people of Koronadal to its development, the City of Koronadal returns the efforts of the residents through the various programs it is implementing. At the forefront, are the different devolved line agencies and departments within the LGU offering their services to the people: the City Health Office, the City Population Office, City Cooperative Office, the City Social Welfare and Development Office, the City Agriculture Office, the City Veterinary’s Office, the City Engineering Office, the City Planning and Development Office, the Koronadal Investment Center, the

City School's Division, the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Fire, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and the Department of Interior and Local Government. Supporting the operations of these departments and agencies are the City Treasurer's Office, City Budget Office, City Assessor's Office, City General Services Office, City Accounting Office and the City Administrator's Office. Our most important partners in the implementation of projects and in the delivery of services to our people are the Sangguniang Panlungsod under the Office of the City Vice Mayor, the City Development Council, the Local Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals, the Koronadal Investment Board, the Local School Board, the Local Health Board, the Peoples' Law Enforcement Board, the Solid Waste Management Board and other local special bodies.

The services of the government encompass all residents of Koronadal, however, priorities are given to the underprivileged or the low-income group, the differently-abled persons, the children and the youth, the elderly, the women and the indigenous people.

Health

The increasing demand for health services primarily due to the increase in the population is a big challenge to the City Health Office. It has also doubled its efforts in sourcing out funds from foreign institutions in order to address the demand and supply gap. The LGU is a beneficiary of the Sentrong Sigla, DOH XII, AusAid and Germany. Assistance ranges from financial to medical equipment and supplies in order to supplement its annual budget coming from the LGU. In 2004, about 76,000 people benefited from the various medical services, and 19,695 people benefited from its dental services.

Due to the austerity measures campaign of Her Excellency, President Gloria M. Arroyo, the city government instead of holding a week-long festivities during its 4th charter anniversary last October conducted a medical and dental mission at the City Hall grounds. There were 346 who availed of the medical services and 150 who availed of the dental services.

A continuing program of the city on Medicare Para sa Masa awarded to 833 indigent families a 1-year medicare plan. More than 11,000 families benefited from the GMA health cards issued last year.

For the Environment Sanitation Program, 260 households were able to avail of sanitary toilet facilities and 19,821 households were given safe potable water supply.

To ensure the delivery of health services to our people the city government has been maintaining 34 Health Centers with midwives assigned in all its 27 barangays. The District Health Centers in Brgy. San Jose and Brgy. Topland are also serving our people in the rural areas. To uplift the dignity of health workers, the city government with the strong support of the Sanggunian Panlungsod will be implementing the Magna Carta for health workers of the City of Koronadal in 2005.

City Population Office

We believe that a self-reliant community can only be developed if the families are well managed and that each member is aware of its rights and responsibilities. This is the thrust of the newly filled up City Population Office. For 2004, 21 orientations/workshops on Reproductive Health in coordination with the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines were conducted. These are aimed to educate our youth, women and even men on the importance of appropriately managing our families. The City Search for Model Family was conducted in 2004 with the family of Brgy. Capt. Blas Amido who won the award. The search is a continuing program that aims to identify model family/families worth to be emulated in the community.

For the population control, a bilateral tubal ligation was conducted to 31 mothers. There is also continuous distribution of contraceptives and massive education campaign on family planning in coordination with the City Health Office.

Nutrition

Garnering the highest award for nutrition in the national level for 3 years elevated our City Nutrition Council to the Hall of Fame. Through its cash award, the city was able to inaugurate last year the Nutrition Hall of Fame Office at the City Demo Farm in Brgy. Gen. Paulino Santos.

Supplemental feeding to 1,739 pre-schoolers and conduct of nutrition classes to 585 mothers were among the activities of the Nutrition Office last year. In Brgy. Sta. Cruz, 87 pupils were able to benefit from the milk feeding and dental services. During the Christmas Festival, 2,369 children from the different barangay day care centers availed of milk feeding from the LGU.

City Veterinary's Office

Based on the City Health Office's records, there were 65 animal bite cases last 2004 in addition to 5 mortality in relation to dog bites. It is but timely that the City Veterinary's Office has been filled up last year. In order to address the problem, there was a high-density and massive anti-rabies vaccination for the 11 barangays where 4,955 dogs were vaccinated. Due to this anti-rabies campaign, the outbreak of this deadly virus has been curbed as early as the 3rd Quarter of 2004. Thus, the city government is planning to formulate an Ordinance that will give a stern punishment to all irresponsible dog owners. Further, we have become independent from the anti-rabies campaign of the Provincial Veterinary's Office.

Moreover, we have already started the artificial insemination of cattle and carabaos. Through this program, we will be able to upgrade our livestock. There was also the dispersal of 446 chickens under the poultry production program.

Social Welfare and Development

Among the highlights of accomplishments in terms of social services delivery in 2004 was the assistance provided in terms of hospitalization, medicines, burial and financial to our underprivileged constituents that totaled to P 4,315,000.00.

In line with our program for the differently-abled persons, 2 wheelchairs were awarded and 10 differently-abled persons were awarded with livelihood assistance.

Out of our calamity fund, we also distributed rice to our 23,043 farmers who were victims of the infestation of rats and black bug in the early part of 2004.

Our delivery of social welfare services in 2004 did not only dwell in the provision of financial and material aids, we likewise supported the livelihood projects of our women organizations. Two organizations, namely the Samahang Kababaihan ng Purok Villegas, Brgy. Zone III and the Amazing Women Association of Brgy. New Pangasinan availed an aggregate loan of P439,000.00.

On the lighter side, the CSWDO still manages to continue their services to the children through the Children's Help, Intervention and Protection Services (CHIPS), the women through the Women's Help, Intervention and Protection Services (WHIPS) and the Senior Citizens. Children, through our Day Care Service Program were also given their pre-school education and exposure to mingle with other children. We are maintaining 82 Day Care Centers benefiting 4,210 children.

We facilitated the implementation of the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS). This is a national program of the government where residents of Sitio Sta. Barbara in Brgy. Topland are the beneficiaries of the potable water supply under this program.

In line with the Philippine Strategic Framework Plan Development for Children or Child 21, the City's goal is to ensure that every child in Koronadal shall exercise his/her right to survival, protection, development and participation through out his/her life cycle in the atmosphere of peace, stability and progress.

For this year, the City government is working on the completion and approval of the four gifts for children wherein two gifts are now on the process of finalization for concurrence of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, these are, the Local Development Plan and Local Investment Plan for the Children of Koronadal.

Economic Development

Community Based Training

Various community-based skills training were conducted to enable the people to gain additional skills that they can use to augment their income. Training on baking yielded 84 graduates from Brgy. Avanceña, Brgy. New Pangasinan, Brgy. Magsaysay and Brgy. Topland, training on electronics produced 41 graduates from the out-of-school youths of Brgy. Topland, training on dressmaking benefited 16 RIC members of Brgy. Topland, and 23 out-of-school youths of Zone I benefited from another skills training of the city. This is a continuing thrust of the city so as to develop self-reliant constituents.

Local Business

Based on our records at the Business Permits and Licensing Section our city enjoyed an increase of 13% in the number of business establishments in 2004 than the previous year 2003. Despite the national economic slump in the last quarter of 2004, the people of Koronadal remained aggressive and have put up their businesses in Koronadal. An investment of more than P 3 Billion was recorded in 2004.

Cultural Tourism

In the national scene, we must take pride of our Hinugyaw Dance Troupe for they have been included by the Cultural Center of the Philippines in its roster of members. They are our representatives of goodwill to other provinces in the country speaking highly of the quality of artists in our city. We also hosted the 35th Cultural Center Philippines (CCP) Foundation Anniversary and 25th Outreach Program of the CCP here in our city. In 2004, we hired a cultural development officer to oversee the development of various cultural organizations in our city. He also took charge of different cultural activities we conducted.

Oil Palm Industry

I have observed that vast tracks of open spaces non-suitable for rice and corn are still existing in our city. Most of these areas are suited for oil palm. The past years of our dependence on rice and corn as our main product depicted the sad plights of our farmers. Ang iba nagasiling nga ang pagduso ko sang oil palm industry sa ciudad sang Koronadal basi magadula sang palay kag mais naton nga mga produkto. Gusto ko lang klaruhon nga indi naton dulaon ang mga produkto nga ini. The countries of Malaysia and Indonesia are now enjoying the fruits of a progressive economy contributed by the palm oil industry. Thus, this administration have already started its efforts to venture into Oil Palm Industry by passing E.O. # 7, series of 2004 which approved the establishment of palm oil industry in the City of Koronadal and by conducting an Oil Palm Industry Consultation Conference at Casa Gemma in 2004. The City Government is now closely coordinating with the Department of Trade and Industry for this project. A study tour was also conducted in Agusan del Sur to observe and learn some about the Oil Palm Industry.

Livelihood

The LGU has always been sensitive to the needs of the masses. The high interest rates and the inaccessibility of loans to the farmers and micro-entrepreneurs prompted the City Government to extend financial assistance to them, payable in 1 year and at 0% interest rate. Since its inception in 2003, there are already 7,381 beneficiaries of this program. Amount of loan ranges from P 2,000.00 to P 10,000.00. Total budget for this program in 2004 was P 8,920,000.00.

In the past, it has been observed that people are quick to avail of loans, however, they tend to ignore their responsibility for repaying these loans. In the implementation of this program, the Local Chief Executive has decided to become an economic leader instead of a politician. Due to this, in a span of 19 days last November 2004, the LGU was able to collect P 5Million out of the collectibles from these borrowers.

Agriculture Development

Acknowledging that agriculture is still the backbone of our economy, this administration has been strongly supporting the plight of our farmers by strengthening various

agriculture programs and projects. In 2004, 250 farmers acquired technical knowledge on rice production. Nine hundred sixty-six (966) bags of Inbred rice seeds funded from the city development funds amounting to P 983,450.00 were distributed to 560 farmers. The national government had subsidized the distribution of 135 bags of highbred rice seeds costing P 480,000.00 to 130 farmers. Six hundred eighty-two (682) farmers benefited from the seminar on the awareness on soil fertility determination and fertilizer requirement. Fifty (50) farmers on the other hand were given a seminar on the latest technology on corn farming.

In response to the clamor of the farmers for post-harvest facilities, the city government was able to construct 10 multi-purpose drier pavements last year in Barangays Esperanza, San Roque, Mabini, Topland, Rotonda, Magsaysay and San Jose.

In support to our farmers engaged in vegetable production, we have recently organized Vegetable Industry Council in Southern Mindanao (VICSMIN). Through this organization, vegetables will be able to be sold at a good price in the market. There were 170 farmers who were trained in efficient vegetable management technology and 250 farmers availed of vegetable seeds from the LGU.

For inland fishing, we are currently maintaining our tilapia and hito techno demo farm. We have already produced hybrid tilapia and hito and dispersed 10,000 tilapia fingerlings to 5 beneficiaries. We have likewise organized the hito breeders into a multi-purpose cooperative with an initial membership of 31 farmers.

We likewise give support to the youth and women. We have the Support to Farm Youth Development Program for the youth, and the RIC Development Program and Integrated Food Processing Program for the women.

Other programs of the LGU include:

- Agro-Forest Management where 6,532 coco seed nuts will be ready for distribution to 62 farmers good for 62 hectares;
- Nursery Development where we have dispersed 765 sexually and asexually propagated fruit trees and have likewise propagated 4,164 coco seed nuts; and
- Production of bio-control agents against CSB or the production of earwigs used as bio-control on corn against pests

Cooperative Development

In the early '70s many cooperatives have been organized. Eventually, these organizations died primarily due to mismanagement and on the outlook of their members as well. Last year, the City Government appointed for the first time a Cooperative Officer in the hope that these cooperatives will be revived. People, who are united for a cause such as the cooperatives, will surely give life to our economy.

As a start, the LGU gave priority to the orientation of the cooperative members. There were 724 people who attended the orientation in order to strengthen the cooperatives and to enlighten the members through awareness on cooperative undertakings.

The Trainers' Training on Cooperative Development Phase I and II and Cooperative Bookkeeping were also conducted. Fifty-eight (58) participants attended the seminars making them the core trainers in successful and profitable cooperative operations.

Moreover, 13 cooperatives have been monitored and given technical assistance in coordination with the Cooperative Development Authority. A City Cooperatives Development Council have been organized to resolve cooperative issues and concerns.

As I have discussed with our City Cooperative Officer, ang mga kooperatiba nga tulog, bugtawon; ang may sakit, bulongon; ang mga officers nga wala naga-hulag, islan. Ini para magpag-on ang aton mga kooperatiba.

Minimum Basic Needs Survey

Sa pagsabat sang ciudad sang mga pagkinahanglanon sang mga katawhan sa parte sang pagpaumwad sang ila pangabuhian kag sa mga pang adlaw-adlaw nga kinahanglanon, importante nga may concreto ini nga basihan. Thus, in 2004 we conducted the Minimum basic needs survey. We have already covered 9 barangays

where personnel from the LGU conduct a house-to-house survey. The result of the survey will be a guide of the LGU in prioritizing projects for each barangay and in identifying people who can avail of government assistance. Paagi sini, aton nga mamaximize ang paggamit sang pondo nga gina alukar sang ciudad para sa aton mga kubos nga katawhan.

Education

Based on the records of the City Schools Division, 88.72% are enrolled in the elementary level and 78.91% are enrolled in the secondary level. Majority of these enrollees are studying at the public schools.

Our city is fortunate that there is generous teacher provision for the elementary level. There are also adequate classrooms and adequate armchairs or desks for the pupils.

In reading, various intervention programs have been implemented to help non-readers. The following are the reading intervention programs at the different schools in elementary: Reading Recovery Clinic, Community Partnership in Teaching Beginning Reading, Schoolmate Ko, Pananagutan Ko Reading Program and PHIL IRI Program. At the secondary level, the teacher-student ratio is at national mean. There is severe shortage of armchairs or desks meaning there are more than 3 pupils per seat. There is also a severe shortage of classrooms. 51 classrooms are needed at the KNCHS, 3 at the Concepcion National High School and 4 at the Marbel 7 National High School. Such concerns are a challenge for us in the government for this needs a concerted effort on our part. We must not wallow on our lack of facilities instead we must bank on our strength, that is our dedicated teachers. We must congratulate them for despite the hardships, they still managed to remain loyal in educating our youth. The city government and Local School Board will be working together to address the above-mentioned needs of our secondary schools.

Our City Schools Division likewise gave attention to the efficiency and effectiveness of their system. For 2004, graduation rate is 97.46% for the elementary and 87.09% for the secondary level. There is still room for improvement for our cohort survival rate where it is pegged at 58.04% for the elementary and 38.45% for the secondary level; more so, with our Bridge Program at the Concepcion National High School, Esperanza National High School, KNCHS and Marbel 7 National High School where the percentage of qualifiers is only 36.12%. Efforts are now underway to improve the quality of education in the national high schools.

In keeping up with the times, the City Schools Division purchased a multi-media projector out the LSB funds. Last year also was the launching of the regional and division official internet website, local area networking and internet connection. Seven (7) of our division city schools received 29-inch television sets where 2 of these schools had cable installation.

The assistance of the LGU in terms of education is not confined to the City Schools Division. The ISKO City Scholarship Program with a total allocation of P 738,000.00 in 2004 granted educational assistance to 93 poor but deserving college students. The Special Program for Employment of Students likewise benefited 110 high school and college students.

In our thrust to continually improve the delivery of our services, we established a Scholarship Program for our undergraduate permanent employees. Nine (9) personnel of the LGU benefited the program. One (1) graduated last March and the rest are still continuing their education.

Sports

Sports develop our bodies and stimulate our minds. The discipline, hard work and determination of every athlete should be supported, thereby; the City Government welcomes sport programs that will benefit our very own athletes.

The following are the sports activities supported by our City Government:

- Area Elimination Secondary Schools Basketball Competition
- Regional Elimination for Secondary Schools Basketball Competition
- 1st PGMA Basketball Friendship Games

- Chess Clinic at KCES-1 with 50 participants
- 2004 Shell Youth Active Chess Tournament - Mindanao Leg

The following are the sports competitions where the City Government supported our athletes:

- PASA Meet Swimming Competition in Manila
- Samsung Invitation Taekwondo Championship in Davao City where we declared the over-all champion
- 1st Mindanao-wide Open Arnis Tournament 2004 where we won 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals
- World Taekwondo Festival and 6th Korea Open where we won 1 silver medal
- BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games 2004 in Malaysia where our athletes won 2 silver and 3 bronze medals in swimming

We have also this continuing program on physical fitness from Monday to Saturday, every morning at the Rizal Park which we call Karakasa. Everybody is welcome to join in the exercises. I got the idea of this program from Quezon City.

Peace and Order

The confidence of the national government in identifying Koronadal as the Regional Center of Region XII speaks highly of the peace and order of our city. The presence also of establishments with national franchises such as Jollibee, Chowking, Dunkin' Donuts, Mister Donut, ITTI, Fila, and a lot more are indicators that our city is a haven of business opportunities due also to its peace and order.

We must congratulate our untiring personnel from the Philippine National Police including its Traffic Section and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology as well as the endless support given by the Philippine Army, Bureau of Fire, CAFGUs, CVOs, Tricycle Driver's Association, KARANCHO and other Civic Organizations.

The following were established in 2004 to improve the operations of the PNP:

- The Police Beat Patrol where 4 centers were established in the major streets of the Central Business District;
- checkpoints in every entry and exit points of Koronadal; and
- 2 Kababayan Centers located in Brgy. Saravia and Brgy. San Roque which serve as Advance Security Command Posts

Easing the flow of traffic within the city may be attributed to the Traffic Section, however, noteworthy also is the contribution of the Task Force Kaayusan. This was organized last year, 2004. They closely monitored the sidewalk vendors so as not to interfere with the traffic and pedestrians.

REGIONAL CENTER

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Transportation and Communication and National Commission on Indigenous People are the regional offices that had transferred to our city in 2004. The Department of Education and Center for Health and Development (DOH XII) have set up their satellite offices in our city. We welcome their presence in Koronadal in addition to the 16 regional offices that had previously operated in our city. These national line agencies have already entrusted their confidence in our city as the Regional Center of the SOCCSKSARGEN Region, let us therefore take care of this trust by being united for the continued development and peace of our city.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere and full thanks to our city council headed by our City Vice Mayor and our city councilors. I would like also to express my thanks to the barangays captains, council men, officials, NGOs, much more to our Chief of Police, Col. Quidilla and his men and the Philippine Army who always go around, helping us; the CAFGUs, CVOs and BPLK who watch from time to time the peace and order of Koronadal.

We are very serious because our goal as I said is to work for the transfer of our city hall and the construction of the city hall to the new site. Our goal now is to move up in our economy. Three (3) to 5 years from now, we want to see Koronadal develop its economy in contrast to the declining economy of the national government.

Gani sa inyo nga tanan, DepEd people, mga kasimanwa, madamo nga salamat sa inyo pagkadto kag pagpamati diri sa State of the City Address. I hope that by doing this we will be able to work together to develop our people and our city.