



MUNICIPALITY OF DUMARAO

I ❤️ DUMARAO

A SOAPBOX OF PUBLIC CONCERNS

DUMARAO PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

DUMARAO PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

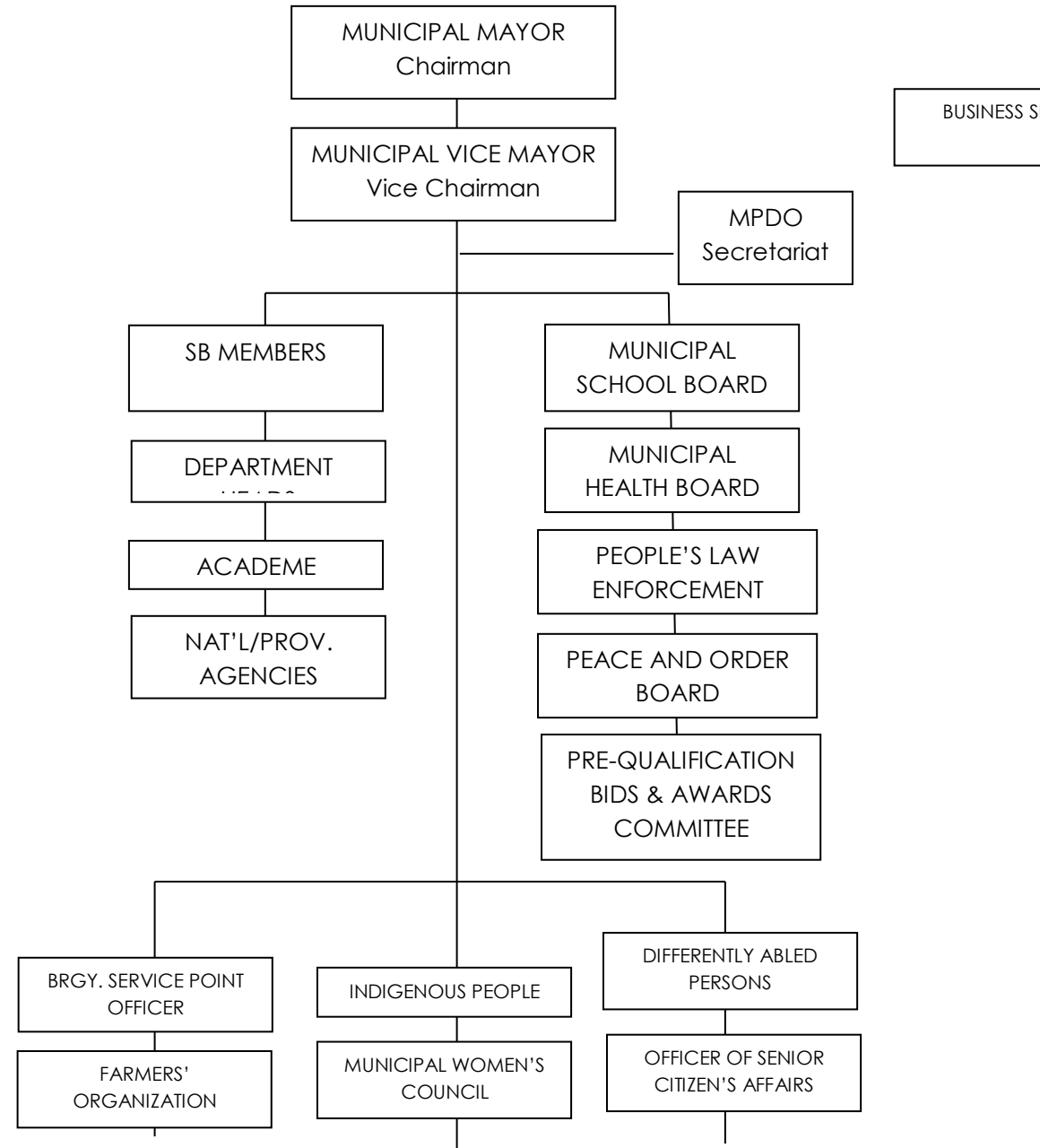
I. Title: DUMARAO PEOPLE'S CONGRESS: A SOAPBOX OF PUBLIC CONCERNS

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Municipality of Dumarao, having a total land area of 23,420 hectares, with 33 barangays and 40,000 population is one of the sixteen (16) municipalities of the Province of Capiz. It is located at the southern portion of the province with a distance of fifty two (52) kilometers from the City of Roxas, the province' capital. It is geographically bounded by the municipalities of Cuartero and Maayon, Capiz in the North; the municipality of San Rafael, Iloilo, in the Southeast; Passi City, Iloilo, in the South; and Dumalag, Capiz in the West. It belongs to the second (2nd) Congressional District of Capiz along with the municipalities of Cuartero, Dao, Dumalag, Ivisan, Jamindan, Mambusao, Sapián, Sigma, and Tapaz.

Like any other municipalities, the cardinal rule of Dumarao be it in financial, economic or in social aspect is to look for the need of the people and provide solution for the common issue. The Local Government Unit of Dumarao, Capiz, in seeking to serve its people, used to look up and wait for the programs, general promulgations and issuances, and strive to implement and apply them to its constituents.

The program package provides for all the minute details from the mechanics to the logistics. Somehow, it cannot make the program trickle down to the ultimate beneficiaries and end users. Thus, the nagging thought that came out from the minds of the experts was to find out of a solution on how to directly bring out the outcry of the majority to the concerned agency or how they can present updates of projects and programs that contribute to the development of the community.





It has empowered the constituency to take part in local governance, in running its own community, in planning, and in providing the necessary solutions. It has instilled a sense of responsibility to every Dumaraonon, and more importantly, a sense of ownership to the plans, projects and programs, and most of all, accountability both of the public servants and the whole people of Dumarao.

Disciplined, responsible citizens, and accountable servants leading to the success of every endeavor and further development of the municipality.



Series of meetings were conducted until they reach a concept of creating an appropriate venue where the Local Government Unit of Dumarao can harmonize not only with the representatives from the different Civil Service Organizations but with the common people as well.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:



Dumarao People’s Congress was created last January 30, 1997 and it is still thriving up to the present. It is a “soapbox” for public concerns in the sense that any problem is solved by consensus and not by specific technical group. The misgiving is that some persons may not be knowledgeable in a given field and may give erroneous views. Many insights coming from different sectors made a strong and sensible contribution to the solution of the problem. Likewise, the Dumarao People’s Congress, in holding plenary sessions, can take to task the problems from different points of views, different persuasions and can come out with a solution that sometimes in its simplicity is adjudged to be the most sensible.

As a start, the Local Chief Executive called for a General Assembly of all councils, Non-Government organizations and responsive citizens. The members of the councils were to group themselves, discuss and identify their problems, then in a plenary session, will present their needs, issues, and action plans. There were thirty-three (33) institutional groups and they agreed to meet every last Thursday of the month.

Dumarao People's Congress in its vie to sustain harmonious relationship among its people, depict transparency and participatory governance, sets the following objective:

- To create a body that will act as staging area that will help facilitate over any problem, need, issue and/or concern of the populace of the municipality;
- To utilize all the members as single coherent group in planning, assessing, formulating and framing courses of actions on any given problem;
- To utilize specific group who are specialists in their respective bodies or organization to lay down the groundwork for the identification of the problems, defining the limits of the situation and to present to the general group for discussion, analysis, formulations or solutions and allow the framing of the final course of action by the whole body.

The Municipal Mayor serves as the Chairperson and the Vice-Mayor as the Vice-Chairperson while the Municipal Planning and Development Office acts as the Secretariat.

the Municipal Disaster Preparedness Plan, the Municipal Watershed Development Plan, the Revised Municipal Revenue Code, Local Shelter Plan, and several hearings and presentations of the Sangguniang Bayan, the Municipal Development Council, suggestions for legislative action and a sounding board for municipal problems, complaints and recognition for successful activities and operations.

Indeed, the existence of Dumarao People's Congress for twenty (20) years moulded Dumarao from being a tail-ender municipality to a front-runner, having been a consistent Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran (GPK) awardee and a Hall of Famer, up to the current Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) days, among the many other awards and recognitions.



III. PROJECT RESULT/IMPACT:

Before, there was a time when a citizen or a group of citizens have no venue to air or ventilate their problems. General issues are directed to the respective government agencies. Going to the Local Chief Executive or to the Sangguniang Bayan members to present ones problem is too cumbersome and lacks the necessary documentation or formal acknowledgment of the problem.

After the Dumarao People's Congress was instituted, the Local Government Unit of Dumarao found an appropriate platform and forum to present current issues, problems and concerns. It becomes a sounding board before critical ears of a large cross section of the community. The people, who presented the problem, also dissect, discuss and consider measures and formulate solutions together with invited resource persons. The elected officials, representatives of government agencies, face and address the different issues until a workable solution is arrived at. The Sangguniang Bayan and its staff, who are in attendance, in consideration of the situation, prepare the necessary legislation or the Local Chief Executive thru issuances of the different National Government Agencies to relay them to their higher authority.

Thus, the Dumarao People's Congress becomes a crucible of the whole municipality's concerns. Its social and economic differences become the common denominator to forge them to become one.

Through the years, the Dumarao People's Congress has taken to task, facilitated, sponsored, adopted or supported such programs as the Centennial Activities, crafting of the Municipal Environment Plan, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning,

There are seventeen (17) organizations and 86 members. The Chairperson of every council/special body is the representative/member of the Congress together with the Sangguniang Bayan Members and the thirty-three (33) Punong Barangays.

V. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES:



When Dumarao People's Congress was organized, all local organizations would meet every last Thursday of the month and hold their individual sessions before they present an output, problem/s and recommendations to the Congress during the plenary session. The plenary session tend to give the needed depth and extent of participatory involvement in problem solving.

The monthly meeting has a set of agenda to take up. This is handled by the Municipal Planning and Development Office. Upon request, any concerned organization can request for a slot in the Calendar of Activities for any pressing program.

Resource persons from national, regional or provincial level and NGOs are invited so they can share their expertise in any specified topics.

A problem as presented, is participated in by all the members present, regardless of the statuesque or stature.

Years after, the procedure has been slightly modified. Any concern or agenda can be requested through the Secretariat, and be presented to the Congress for plenary discussions. Discussions are participated in by the members from a wide range of the social strata and the resulting diverse views are definitely encouraging.

The bottom-to-top or grassroots approach in planning and problem solving has been the keytool of the Dumarao People's Congress. A simple "pulong-pulong" in certain barangay can be modelled after it where there are agenda being set, participants discuss in an open forum and the like.

Transparency of an organization is another factor that will motivate other LGUs to replicate the Congress because it serves not only as to hear people's voice from the outside but also from the inside through reports from the local/provincial/regional/national government. Status of programs, projects, future plans and activities or even the Local Budget is being tackled.

In Congress, the notion that "the best thing one may receive is the thing he needed most." is considered. The needs are identified by the common people for the common good, thus, it is just and fair to provide them with projects and programs that will be useful to them. The identification of these needs, problems, and concerns in Congress enables the government to provide appropriate programs and projects apt for its constituents.

IV. SUPPORT:

A budget is allocated every year for Dumarao People's Congress. Every anniversary, active Members are recognized and given certificates of appreciation.



In addition, Experiential Tours and Capacity Enhancement Seminars are regularly conducted which are participated by the Dumarao People's Congress Members.

