



State of Local Governance

REPORT 2010

BALANGIGA, EASTERN SAMAR



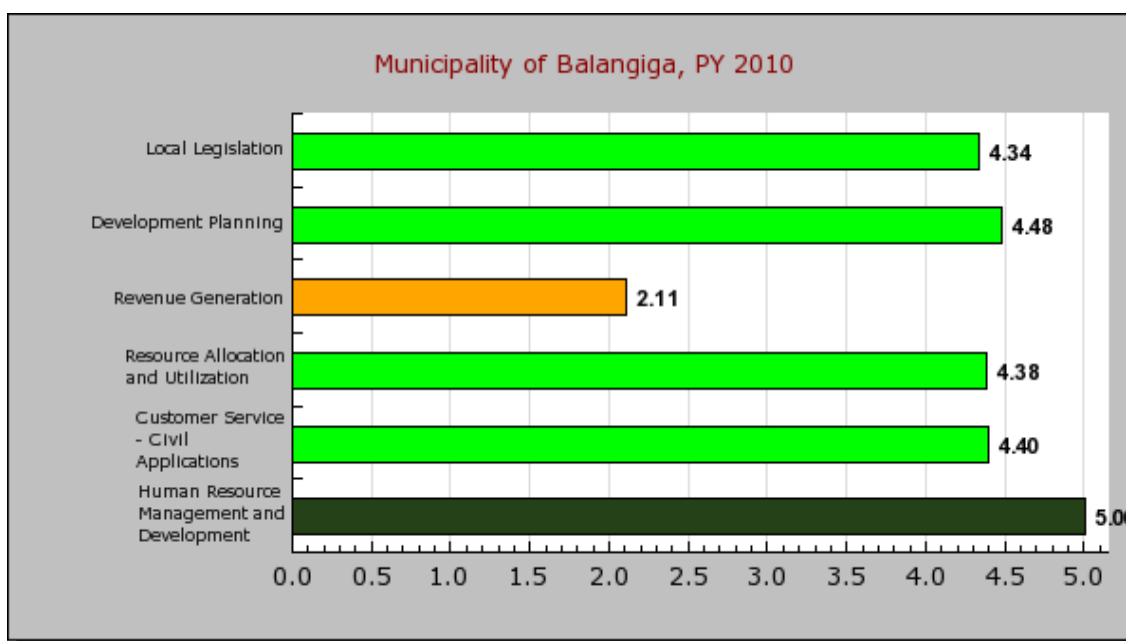
STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2010

Balangiga, Eastern Samar

This State of Local Governance Report is a technical report based on a self-assessed level of performance on the criteria's from the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS). This covers the municipality's performance on four areas of governance significantly in Administrative Governance, Social Governance, Economic Governance, and Environmental Governance. A special report is included to determine how the fundamentals of good governance such as Participation, Transparency, and Financial Accountability are valued in the Municipality.

On Administrative Governance

Administrative Governance enumerates six areas including Local Legislation, Development Planning, Resource Allocation and Utilization, Customer Service, and Human Resource Management and Development of the six areas considered four contained high performance and in Human Resource Management we have gained an excellent performance.



Excellence is the theme for Human Resource Management and Development. Primarily this is brought about by the establishment of all the necessary and legal motivational mechanisms in our working place. To mention a few we value security of tenure, performance appreciation, grievance mechanisms and above all we installed staff development as an integral part of human resource management wherein we send our human resource to various



trainings and seminars not only to update their current state of knowledge but to enhance their capacities as well. In response to our human resource shortage, we have augmented our plantilla positions and have set in on capabilities as major requirements upon hiring. Personnel salary limitations and financial constraints, through multi-tasking have not deterred us from successfully delivering the basic mandates of the Municipal Government. In fact, we have already accepted it as a way of life.

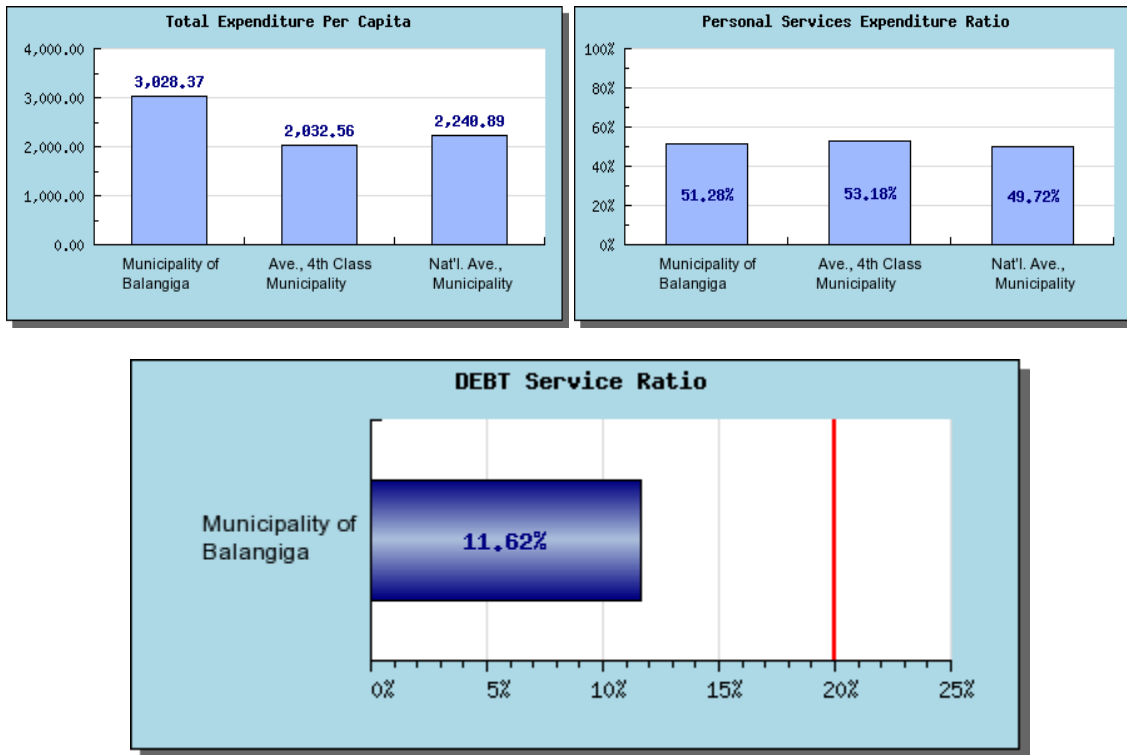
Though the Sangguniang Bayan has received numerous recognitions, there is still a lot to be done especially on legislative tracking and backstopping. We are still on a computer-aided of tracking system. Likewise, we have also identified the need of technically-skilled legislative support staff which will aide to a more responsive local legislation. However, financial constraints again have deterred us from realizing the same. Moreover, although the absence of legislative building has not affected the performance of the Sangguniang Bayan, it had deterred us from winning the Regional Legislative Award. Priority local legislation such as Market Code, Health and Sanitation Code is also very much desired as well.

Meantime, we are currently reviving the Local Development Planning in the municipality. In fact, we have produced the long desired Rationalized Planning System compliant Term-based Plan and Comprehensive Development Plan, which provides guidance on the development needs of the municipality. Thanks to our very active Municipal Development Council and ever supportive Municipal Inter-Agency Committee members who provided intelligent and meaningful opinions which aided the success of our planning efforts. Integrated in this plans are the financing and monitoring and evaluation schemes ensuring that this plans are implemented with utmost efficiency and effectiveness. To assure our constituents, we have crafted our Municipal Development Investment Program and the Annual Investment Plan. However several setbacks has been observed in this area including the lack of comprehensive environmental data and shortcomings on the establishment of databank on the existing institutions present in the municipality both government and non-government. Without which we cannot offer responsive interventions to these areas. To respond to this, we have started data gathering and we are currently completing and validating our Forest Land Use Plan. Our Planning Department as well lacks the technical expertise of the Geographic Information System (GIS) which is a very important tool in land-use planning where near perfect locations and land specification profile is at touch of a computer mouse. Unfavorably, we are at the same time still wanting for a Comprehensive Land Use Plan which is our blueprint for all land use undertakings embracing locational clearance.



High performance is also observed in Resource Allocation and Utilization. As usual, the Municipal Local Government Unit has complied with the budgeting process requirements. Through this we had operated on a surplus basis annually and have financed the required appropriations for the various programs and projects of the Municipality. Although higher than the National Average, we have lower Personal Services Expenditure Ratio as compared to the average for the 4th Class Municipalities. Moreover, we have covered terminal leave benefits to avoid financial disadvantages on future Local Chief Executive. Our Total Per Capita Expenditure is set at 3,028.37 way beyond the 2,032.56 for 4th Class Municipalities and 2,240.89 National Average. Debt Service Ratio is at 11.62% just almost half of the 20% Debt Service Ratio limitation. However, we have failed to provide a separate fund for the monitoring and surveillance of the magnitude of HIV-AIDS. But there is no cause for panic because as per information from the Rural Health Unit personnel, we have not yet recorded even a single case of HIV-AIDS.

Resource Allocation and Utilization Graphs



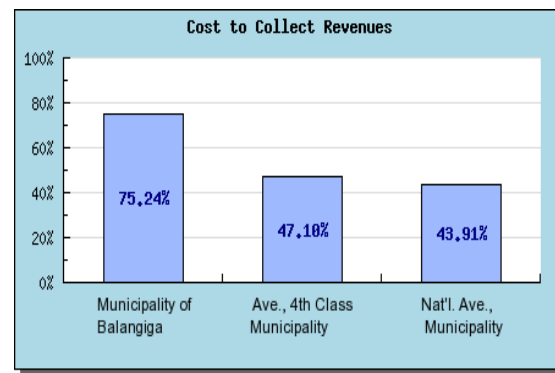
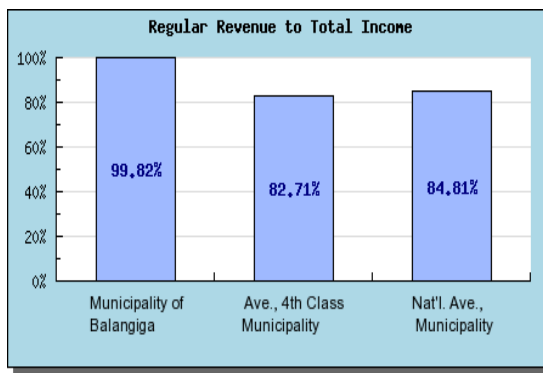
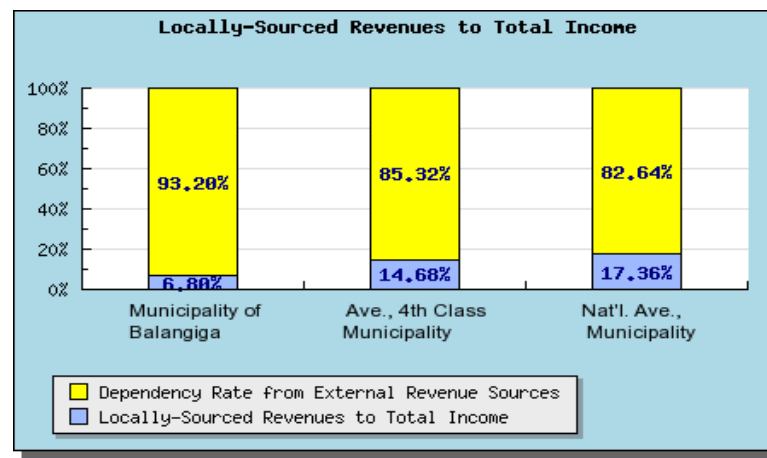
Armed with the Citizens Charter, we have streamlined real property tax collection and business tax collection. Lacking are the computerized systems providing fast, accurate, and well-phased collections interlinking offices of the Assessor, Business Permits and Licensing and Treasurer. We have a near

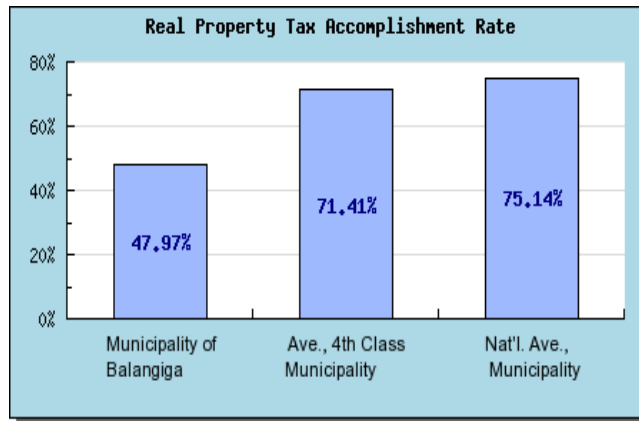
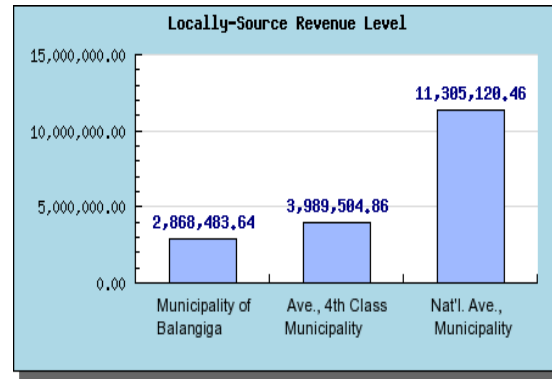
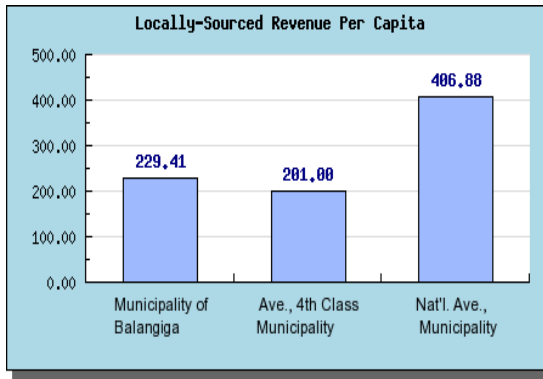


excellent civil registry service. Meanwhile, we are just embarking on a computerized registration system with the assistance of the National Statistics Office.

Harshly, we are lying low on Revenue Generation. Our cost to collect revenues is 160% than the average 4th Class Municipality and 170% in contrast to the National Average for municipalities. The municipality is 93.20% IRA dependent while an average 4th Class Municipality is at 85.32% and National Average runs only at 82.64%. On actual amount, our locally-sourced revenue is just 2,868,483.64. On the other hand, average of 4th Class Municipalities has 3,989,584.86 and the National Average is set at 11,305,120.46. The Real Property Tax Accomplishment Rate for the municipality is just 47.97% while it rates 71.41% and 75.14% for 4th Class and National Average for municipalities. However, due to lesser population, we have higher Locally-Sourced Revenue Per Capita at 229.41 compared to 201.00 for 4th Class Municipalities. Partly, reasons for the aforementioned dilemmas are the failure of the treasury to formulate an annual revenue generation plan which provides the local treasury the local revenue policy directions and anchoring strategies.

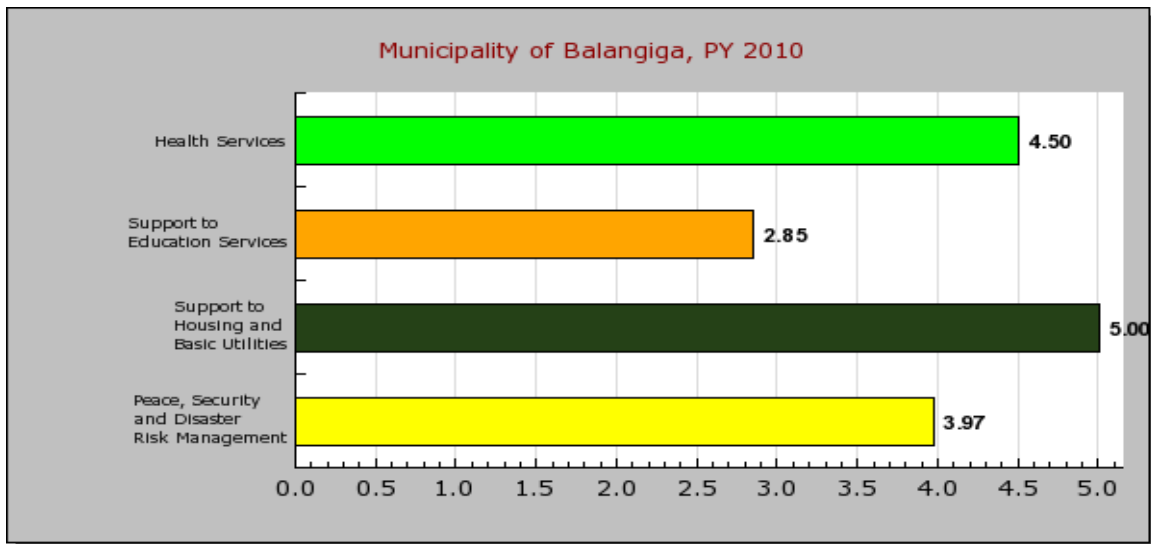
Revenue Generation Financial Performance Graphs





On Social Governance

Social Governance focuses on Health Services, Support to Education Services, Support to Housing and Basic Utilities, and Peace, Security, and Disaster Risk Management. At various performance levels Support to Housing and Basic Utilities gained excellent performance while Support to Education Services received low performance.



On support to housing and basic utilities, we have already installed the Local Housing Board as the simplest means of addressing the housing and basic utilities need of our municipality. We are now currently communicating to the National Housing Authority and have acquired the requirements for application for a housing project in our municipality. With the wholehearted support of our constituency we shall accomplish this for us to fully address our housing needs.

Our health services are at near excellence. We have continually granted health insurance to 1,584 indigents including their immediate family. We have expanded our appropriations on health to which covers basic medicines, basic medical supplies and equipment but we are still falling short of stocks. Though experiencing medical staff shortage we have competent and able staff at our Rural Health Unit which persistently offering health services to our constituents. Likewise we have operationalize our lying-in clinic providing pre-natal, delivery, and post partum services to our indigent mothers. *Senrong Sigla* is of the present a must for the municipal government. We have always believed in the superiority of prevention than cure.

The municipality has fairly performed on Peace, Security, and Disaster risk management. We have created the special bodies but somehow it had failed to meet on regular basis. To the members of the *Katarungang Pambarangay* we commend you. Even *pro bono* you excellently offered services and manage to settle much of the local disputes. We will continually support you through our little means of providing training and continued education.

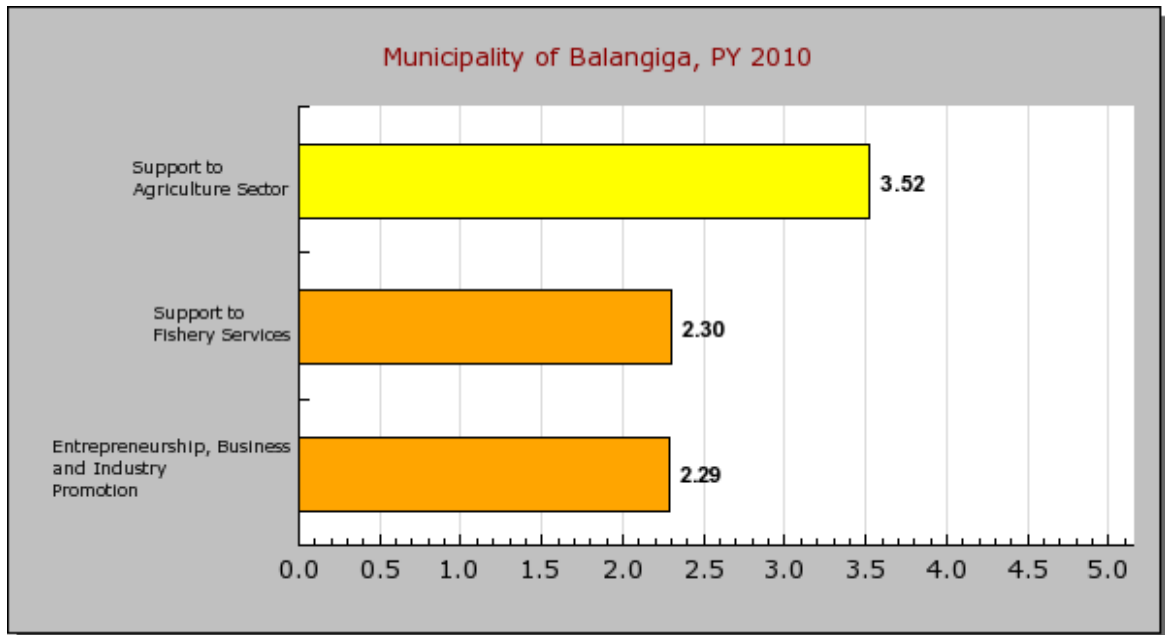
Our performance on support to education still remained low. Revisiting the municipality's policies on this has now turned into a necessity. Among the other reasons is the dependence of Special Education Fund to the Real Property Tax Collections. Though increasing, this is still not enough to fill the financing gaps on our necessities on education. Meantime, we have shouldered job order teachers to fill the teacher shortage on the locality. Moreover, for the present year, in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment the Municipal Government Unit will be implementing a summer job for interested students. Likewise, we are planning to provide a separate educational assistance for qualified indigent students.

On Economic Governance

Economic Governance centers on three areas containing Support to Agriculture Sector, Support to Fishery Services, and Enterprise, Business and Industry Promotion. At varying levels of performance, Support to Agriculture



Sector effects fair whereas Support to Fishery Services and Enterprise, Business and Industry Promotion contract low performance.



On support to fishery services, we acknowledge the need to institutionalize the Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council without which the Municipal Government cannot hear the concerns of this sector thereby resulting to either absence or unresponsive interventions. Likewise, our agricultural extension workers have little capability of providing on-site research services in aide of fishery development. However, we are filling the gap though the basic credit facilitation services wherein our fisherfolks association is actively working with us.

On Entrepreneurship, Business and Industry Promotion, while other local government units at improving their computerized programs we are still operating manually. We are at the same time falling short on providing technical assistance to our Small and Mediums Enterprises. Therefore there is a need to revisit our operational policies on this area. On the other hand, the Municipal Government is providing an annual one-stop shop for business permit acquisition and licensing.

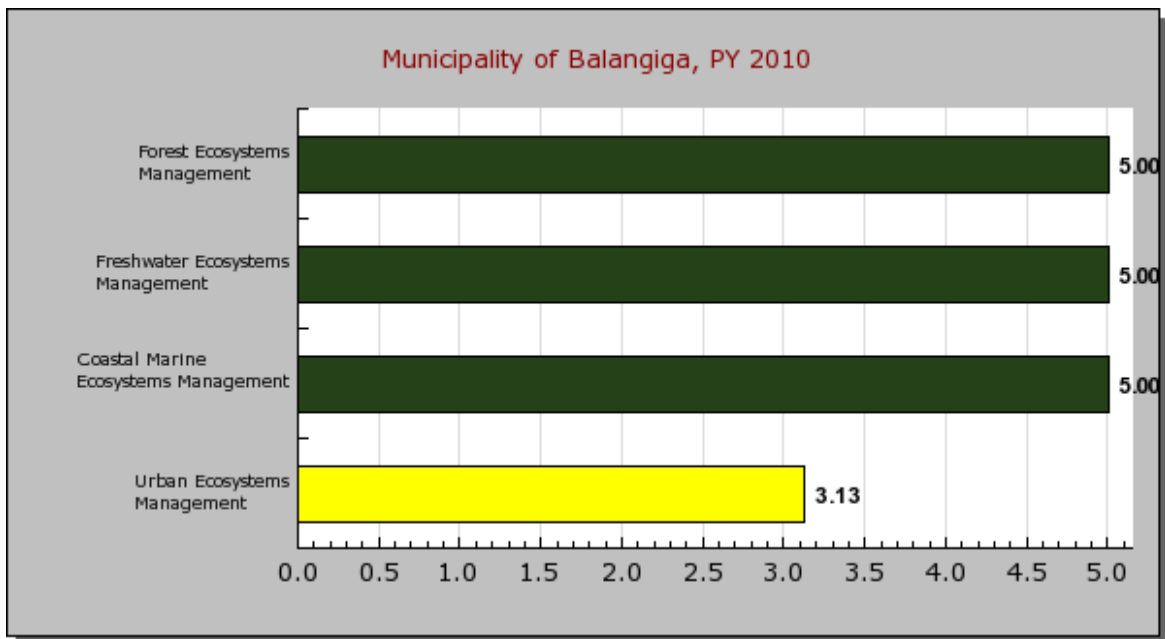
Still, we are short in agro-infra support including communal irrigation system, farm to market roads, and post harvest facilities. However, through the intervention of our very supportive lone district congressman, HON. BEN P. EVARDONE the construction of Sitio Bangon Irrigation System which targets to serve the agricultural lands of Barangay Guinmaayohan, Cag-olango, Sta. Rosa and the municipal rice granary of the municipality Barangay San Miguel in now underway. As much as we want, we have also identified the lack of farm-to-



market roads. On the other hand, finances of the Municipality cannot solely construct the said infrastructure. So we are still asking for financial support from different national government agencies. The lack of established farmer's organization has as well deferred the Municipal Government from providing post harvest facilities to our farmers. Without which we do not have clear accountable stewards which will secure the sustainability of the said facilities. This is to ensure that government funds are prudently utilized. Likewise, the same situation has discouraged us from granting credit facilities to our farmers.

On Environmental Governance

Environmental Governance embarks on four areas encompassing Forest Ecosystems Management, Freshwater Ecosystems Management, and Coastal Marine Ecosystems Management, and Urban Ecosystems Management. Among the four, the municipality tracks excellent in Forest ecosystems management, Freshwater Ecosystems management, and coastal marine management. Aside from the usual National Government Agencies who are mandated in safekeeping the aforementioned natural resources, we have designated local job order employees not only to protect our forests but to improve the current state of the same. In fact mandated to them are daily tree planting activity. The Municipal Government is as well regularly operating the Bantay Dagat Task Force which safeguards our coastal and marine resources from environmentally harmful practices both from locals and intruders.



While the other three reached excellence, urban ecosystems management runs fairly. Though we have already designated members of Solid Waste

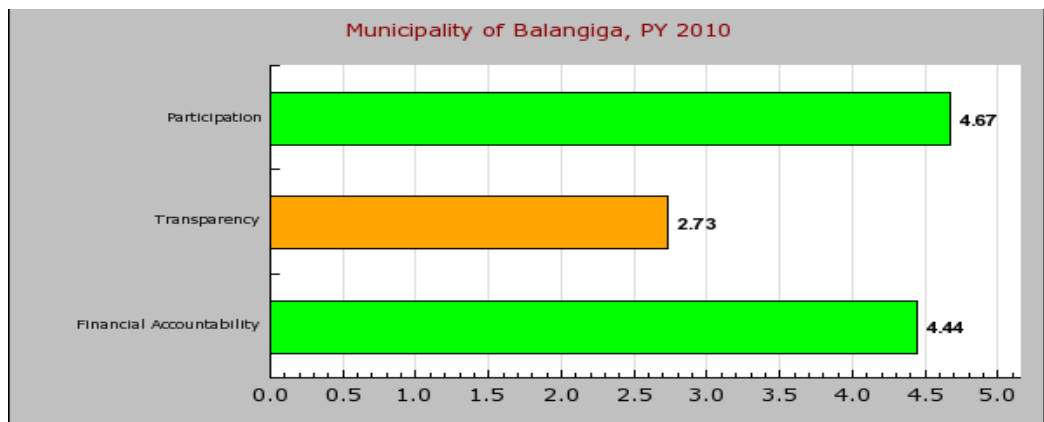


Management Board it has failed to meet annually. Therefore without any meeting, the possibility of functioning as a board is at near impossibility thereby failing to deliver responsively the necessary policies and actions for solid waste management. In relation to this, the municipality also lacks the solid waste management plan. Consequently, we lack the intellect and benefit it so provides. Most Barangays are likewise necessitates materials recovery facility. Segregation at source as well requires further advocacy and demand stringent implementation.

The Municipal Government has also invoked its intent to support the construction of a sanitary landfill. But time and again, our identified location has been disapproved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Nevertheless, we are again invoking our desire and need for assistance from DENR to point on a location for us to realize this long desired facility and more to eliminate the health and environmental imperatives of its absence.

On Valuing Fundamentals

Governing the valuing fundamentals of governance are Participation, Transparency, and Accountability. On participation, we have already adopted the NGO's and PO's as an integral part on the undertakings of the LGU. Thru the MAKAMASANG TUGON, we have involved them not only in planning but in implementation and post-implementation stage as well. Our success in this area has lifted us to a higher level of governance, governance of the people, for the people and by the people. We acknowledge its merits like better transparency, clearer accountability and reinforced consensus influenced. We have massive coordination from Barangay volunteers, Barangay Officials, Municipal Officials and Employees, partner National Government Agencies and our active NGOs and POs.



Financial accountability in the municipality is high. We have rallied in making our officials and employees at all times follow the accounting rules and procedures. But again we have so much to do more in the computerization of our accounting systems.

Performance on transparency is laying low. Lacking are the communication channels like bulletin board and website. Rotation on the assignment of public Information Desk Office is indistinct. Costly are the publication and print media. For this very reason we have failed to afford the publication of certain information. However, if you want to, our municipal staffs are very eager and willing to furnish you copies.

This time allow me to congratulate all of us, who have work so hard to better serve our deserving constituents. Though this report is a self assessed report, it was candidly supported with actual observations. It is grounded on reality. Let us carry on our strong points and persistently try to improve our setbacks. To our Barangay leaders and National Government workers, please continue to support our development endeavors. For with you we shall conquer all difficulties and shall deliver all inadequacies.

Also let us not forget to thank God, for without Him all things are at near impossibility. May His blessings always pour on us today and years ahead!
Uswag Pa Balangiga.

VISCUSO S. DE LIRA
Municipal Mayor

