

Panagkolokabildohanay - The Tanjayanon Round-table

The pros and cons on relevant issues confronting the Tanjayanons of today.

Edited by Braddock Calumpang

On the Controversial Church Renovation

[Ed's Note: *As of this writing, 12 of the 20 concrete pillars supporting the original wooden trusses of the Tanjay Catholic church building have already been demolished. The wooden trusses were removed and replaced with steel trusses which, absent the pillars, are being supported by the existing side walls. This has given rise to the double issues of safety and preservation of our cultural heritage. (The church building is reputed to be well over 80 years old, having been built after that devastating 1925 earthquake.)*

I have had the privilege to talk to some of the major players in this divergence of opinions, which are hereunder presented in the interest of justice and fair play.]

“Our project is with the approval of the Bishop and the Parish Pastoral Council, with a construction permit officially issued by the City Engineer’s Office. It is safe.”

Fr Erasmo Bohol, parish priest and head of the Team Ministry, of the Parish of St James, Tanjay City

“It is our sworn duty, among others, to look after the welfare and safety of the Tanjayanons. We want to be sure our Church is a safe place for our people to come worship and pray.”

Engr Nilo R. Tam, Tanjay Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer, Sanngguniang Panglungsod, a long time church benefactor.

“Halawanay na. Wala na’y mga poste’ng maka-sampung sa Altar. We get the inspiration to participate more actively in the Eucharist. Layhan ko.”

Tia Tutang Manapol-Limbaga, a living legend in Tanjay who has spent most of her life teaching and providing beautiful church music virtually all Tanjayanons grew up with.

I can hardly wait to see the renovated Church on my next visit puhon. I think I will be thrilled!

Aida R. Samson, a nurse professional, in Southfield, MI, who with brother Dr Jesse Samson comes to visit Tanjay regularly.

“Let us not forget the especial cultural issue of preserving our heritage as the first and oldest religious settlement in the region. That church building was among our last links to our historical past.”

Badingding Seneris-Gil, pharmacist who, with engineer husband Danny Gil, has recently decided to come back and spend retirement in Tanjay.

“Ang moperma sa “Occupancy Permit” mao unya’y manubag sa mga kinabuhing manga-angin kung – simbako lang - magun-ob ang atop sa simbahan.” **Engr Lito Limbaga**, former president, Tanjay Association USA, warning on the seriousness of the situation.

“Na-moderno, apan na-ordinaryo na lang ang Tanjay. Churches and cathedrals in Europe, especially those with historical values, have been preserved in their original beauty and splendor.”

Marilou Navarro-Stuetzel, former member of the International Bayanihan Dance Troupe, married to a German executive, both of whom have been living in Tanjay for the last 30 years .

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A City Library: knowing our priorities

I am Gracia Nenita B. Banogon, second daughter of Balodoy and Lulu Borromeo-Banogon. I know you are very good friends of my parents, kamo ni Tio Tino, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, your other classmates and friends for keeping in touch and condoling with our family during the demise of Papa.

... Also, in a larger sense, it is very inspiring to know that there are among us generous Tanjayanons who are willing to give of themselves for some worthy causes, among which is a plan to come up with a decent library, for the sake of our youth of today, our citizens of tomorrow. In connection with this I have some suggestions for possible plans/programs that I hope we in the private sectors can also consider in the future :

1. **A firetruck** – Dumaguete City has its volunteers composed of chinese businessmen who have their own firetruck. Probably, in Tanjay we can have some civilian volunteers too who should be trained and fully equipped with the appropriate gears and on call 24/7. For me this is one important need karon sa Tanjay. After those 3 fires one after the other in a short period of time, we should have already leant our lesson.

2. **Livelihood assistance** – assistance, not only giving and receiving - but equity sharing or counterparting. In short, not a program that tantamounts to a dole-out. Thank you very much.

Gracia Nenita Banogon
City of Tanjay

A public Library is a must for our dear Tanjay. It enhances a culture of reading and facilitates the education and formation of Tanjayanons, particularly the young, uplifting to higher horizons our sense of being and living, liberated from the shackles of ignorance. It further helps in the formation of our reason and which in effect grounds our faith, a rich spiritual and cultural gift given to us. . . A library is no mere lifeless building that contains books that gather dusts through the years. **It is a breathing edifice where our ancient culture could survive amidst the threats of our complex age which strongly draws us to forget the heritage of the past and pushes us to change as fast as time.** While a library can keep the treasures of our culture, it will at the same time be a venue for a new culture out of the old to take shape slowly. Thus, a sense of connectivity. A sense of continuity. A sense of interpenetration. With all my support for this noble cause. When i come home after my studies here in Spain, I promise to share to the Library whatever document I shall have accessed that provides link with Tanjay

Fr Jun-jun Limbaga
(On study leave)

Given the current deplorable situation of the City, I suggest that plans to "invest" (possibly P10M to be repaid by Tanjay’s future generation!) in a Museum/Library in the Tiongson House would have been morally irresponsible! Let me pose the following undisputed facts to jolt sincere Tanjayanons to thought --and possibly return them to the realities of the Tanjay of Today:

1. There are many severely malnourished Tanjayanons due to the very limited social-welfare & medical budgets. Certainly this is one basic issue the City Officials can not just ignore.

2. Tanjay has considerable drug-abuse problems, coupled with a

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