

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Getting to know the PAWD Chairman

by Dolly C. Galvan

“ There are no great men, only great challenges that ordinary men are forced by circumstances to meet.”

-William Halsey

Steering the right course for an organization composed of more than 600 water districts nationwide is a herculean task.

Chairman Edwin Natividad Makasiar is facing a great challenge in his life, as a public servant, having been elected last February 17, 2010 as the Chairman of the Philippine Association of Water Districts (PAWD). He is not daunted of the tasks ahead, rather, he finds the new assignment quite challenging.

The new PAWD Chairman is a true blooded Zamboangueño having been born and raised in Zamboanga City. He holds a degree on Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Ateneo de Zamboanga. He fostered his career from banking to business then to the water industry. He joined Zamboanga City Water District as member of the Board of Directors in 2003. He was elected Vice-Chair in 2004 and became Chairman of the Board in 2009.



Chairman Makasiar works tirelessly for the welfare of the ZCWD employees and its customers as evident in the numerous policies that have been approved by the Board. He dreams to transform the water district into a globally-competitive water utility that adopts internationally accepted quality management system and service delivery. He intends, and have

this desire materialized, of having systematize target setting for water districts and accelerate efforts to provide access to potable water to waterless communities in response to the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce by half the proportion of people with no access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, or those who cannot afford it by 2015.

He is an active civic leader. Currently, he is the President of the Rotary Club of Metro Zamboanga.

Being a recipient of various awards during his term as Past President of Rotary Club ZC North and former Director of Committees ranging from Community Service, Vocational, International and Public Relations, paved the way for him to be chosen as Assistant District Governor for RI District 7850. He became the Assistant District Governor for Rotary Year 2000-2001.

The Chairman is also a sports enthusiast being Past President of the Hermosa Gun Club of Zamboanga. He is presently, still an active member of this organization.

He is also very much involved in the education sector. He was Past President of the Ateneo de Zamboanga (ADZU) Parents Council for 6 terms and presently member of the Board of Trustees of the ADZU Alumni Association.

PLANS for PAWD

Chairman Makasiar believes that many things have to be done with very limited time. His 2-year stint as Chairman is not exactly going to be a bed of roses. He vows to continue the remarkable programs of his predecessor. He considers himself and the other set of officers as transitory officers. Nevertheless, he listed down (3) most important things, among all other priorities, that he wants PAWD to accomplish this year;

First, he wants PAWD to be more relevant to its primary client ---- the water districts. PAWD will be a forum where problems/issues/concerns can be discussed/ventilated and resolved. He believes that problems of small water districts should be addressed or tackled by a group composed of representatives from the small water districts; knowing fully well that their problems differ from the problems faced by medium, big, large and very large water districts.

Second, finding solution to the never ending problem of taxes and GSIS-SSS issue on premiums currently faced by water districts will be part of his priority plans for PAWD.

Third, he envisions PAWD to become a Water Information Bank. The bank will be a depository of data information, and water related technologies which will be disseminated to all member water districts.

All these will be outlined in a game plan which will be set up during the PAWD Quarterly meeting and later streamlined for implementation.

Finally, he hopes that after facing his greatest challenge as Chairman of PAWD, he and the rest of his team, will come out no longer ordinary men, but otherwise.