

## **PERSONALITY PROFILE**

### **TOWARD A STRONGER, DYNAMIC and VIBRANT PAWD**

by Karlo Ceasar Abarquez



As PAWD continues to face tough challenges ahead, the need for effective leadership is specially critical.

Past PAWD presidents could attest to the fact that leading almost 600 water districts nationwide is not a walk in the park. It entails top-notch leadership not only in good, harmonious, and peaceful times but more so during rough & trying moments.

In an industry where struggles and endeavors are guaranteed, another man is more than ready to step forward – PAWD’s new president, GM Nestor Villasin of Leyte Metro Water District (LMWD).

Born and raised in Barugo, Leyte, President Villasin has served LMWD since June 2005. Under his stewardship, LMWD bounced back several notches higher in terms of financial viability as it registered 15% to 20% net income from the annual operating budget of P200 million. By August of this year, LMWD shall have fully paid its loan with LWUA.

Holding a degree in Industrial Engineering, President Villasin is a skilled and tested leader having served his province as Provincial Board member and Vice-Governor. For many years, he has also carried out his duties as PAWD Governor for Region VIII (Eastern Visayas) while also spearheading the PAWD Coordinating Panel as its chairman.

Prior to his decision of seeking the PAWD presidency, President Villasin, also known as “Gang”, mulled over running for Congress considering his experience and competence in politics. But because of the recognition and faith that the general managers in the Visayas

have showed him, he was convinced to carry the banner of PAWD and continue the pursuit the association's ideals.

A real public servant at heart, GM Villasin set sights on continuing the programs of PAWD where the best interests of water districts as corporate entities and public utilities are concerned.

President Villasin assures that he will continue the initiatives for a resolution to the GSIS / SSS dilemma. With his influence and connections in the higher echelon of government, he is optimistic that judicious consideration on the services rendered by water district employees will soon come to pass.

He is also committed in resolving the often questioned salaries or EMEs of general managers. Guided by the law, President Villasin vows to work on what is right, just and fair.

"We have experienced many discomforts in government processes because of conflicting interpretation of laws or guidelines," President Villasin said in a speech during the PAWD Convention.

"This has to be resolved for after all, where there is doubt, laws should be interpreted in favor of the working class," he added.

Among others, the new president envisions his two-year term to focus on the following: 1) viable member-water districts continue helping small, new and struggling ones by providing assistance in terms of training, technical support, and many more; 2) continue holding traditional activities of PAWD like technical sessions, public relations and information dissemination so every member-water district will be kept posted on what is going on in PAWD; and 3) create more programs that will ensure its protection and conservation.

"Yesterday's neglect becomes our responsibility today to assure the future," said GM Villasin. Thus, equipped with sufficient experience in public service and excellent leadership skills and with the collective effort of the officers and members of PAWD, it is his goal to make PAWD stronger, more vibrant, and more dynamic.