

ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR OFFICIALS

Minutes of the Convention of Governors and City Mayors held at the Mansion House, Baguio, City on May 5-6, 1949

PRESENT:

Hon. Manuel Cuenco	President
" Jose B. Lingad	Vice-President
" Perfecto Faypon.....	Secretary
" Sixto Antonio	Treasurer
" Manuel de la Fuente	Auditor
Governors and City Mayors	Members

The meeting were called to order by the Chairman at 10:00 o'clock Ante Meridian. The minutes of the last Convention were read and signed

No. 1

WHEREAS, Honorable Icasiano Bernardo, while in the company of Doña Aurora Aragon-Quezon and her party on their way to Baler to inaugurate the new Hospital in Baler, was brutally and treacherously murdered on April 28, 1949, in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bernardo, aside from being an active member in good standing and Treasurer of the Conference of Governors and City Mayors, was also a national figure in his own right, having been identified with a number of important undertakings of nationwide appeal and importance;

WHEREAS, the untimely demise of Mayor Bernardo at a time when the Conference of Governors and City Mayors is mostly in need of his valuable services;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, by the Conference of Governors and City Mayors in convention assembled to express, as it hereby expresses, the profound grief of this Body on the death of Mayor Ponciano Bernardo;

Be it finally resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the bereaved widow and children of the late Mayor Ponciano Bernardo and another copy to the Municipal Board of Quezon City.

Carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, Doña Aurora Aragon Quezon, widow of the first President

of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Manuel Luis Quezon, her oldest daughter, Maria Aurora Quezon, and son-in-law, Felipe Buencamino II, were victims of a brutal murder at Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, on April 28, 1949, while on their way to Baler to inaugurate the new Hospital in Baler;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Quezon was not only the Chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, but was also a great social worker who devoted the greater part of her time and efforts to alleviate the sufferings of those in need:

WHEREAS, Mrs. Quezon for many years was the chief counselor and adviser of her husband, the late President Quezon; was a dutiful wife and loving mother; and was the embodiment of typical Filipino womanhood;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved, by the Governors and City mayors in convention assembled, as it is hereby resolved, to convey to the members of her family its condolence;

Resolved, further, that this convention devote a minute of silent prayer for the peaceful repose of their departed souls;

Resolved, finally, that copies of this resolution be sent to the surviving family members of the late Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No. 3

WHEREAS, Col. Primitivo San Agustin, Lt. Col. Antonio San Agustin. Lt. Diosdado Lacson, Lt. D. M. Arabejo, Lt. Col Antonio San Agustin Almerino, Pfc. Brigido Valdes and Mr. Pedro Payumo, while in the company of Doña Aurora Aragon Que-

zon and her party as their escort, were brutally and treacherously murdered on April 28, 1949, in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija;

WHEREAS, these brave men lost their lives while giving protection to our most revered, most respected and most beloved Chairman of the Philippine Red Cross;

NOW THEREFORE,

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Governors and City Mayors in convention assembled in the City of Baguio, to convey to the members of their family its condolence,

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this convention of Governors and City Mayors devote a minute of silent prayer for the peaceful repose of their departed souls;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each of the surviving family members of the late brave men through the good offices of the Chief, Philippine Constabulary, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No. 4

WHEREAS, by the provisions of the constitution and By-Laws of the Conference of Governors and City Mayors provides that the tenure of office of the Officers will be for a period of one year; and

WHEREAS, the tenure of office of the elective Officers of the Conference of Governors and City Mayors will last until today necessitating the election of new officers; and

WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to elect the officers before the conference can proceed to act on new business;

NOW, THEREFORE,

UPON motion of Governor Jose del Gallego and seconded by Mayor Jose Cariño,

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to nominate and reelect the old officers and to elect Governor Sixto Antonio as the new Treasurer, vice the late Honorable Ponciano Bernardo, as follows

1. Gov. Manuel Cuenco—President
2. " Jose B. Lingad—Vice-Pres.
3. " Perfecto Faypon—Secretary
4. " Sixto Antonio—Treasurer
5. " Manuel de la Fuente—Auditor

DIRECTORS

1. Gov. Jacinto Borja
2. " Gregorio Santayana
3. " Maria Feñalflorida
4. " Nicasio Arranz
5. " Paciencia Ysalina
6. " Jose del Gallego
7. " Jose Madarang
8. " Enrique Braganza
9. " Vicente Pimentel
10. Mayor Jose Cariño
11. " Vicente Suarez

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each of the above-mentioned elected officers of the Conference of Governors and City Mayors for their information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No. 5

WHEREAS, the country is now aware of the courage, sincerity of purpose of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino to strengthen the confidence of the people in the government;

WHEREAS, in his honest desire to strengthen that confidence, his political enemies are condemning him of mal-administration to besmirch his sterling integrity and to belittle his capabilities as the pilot of the ship of state;

WHEREAS, in spite of the censure and rebuff that his political detractors are concocting, just only to drug down the good name of the President due to personal lust for power which is in contravention to the exalted policy of President Quirino to establish a clean and honest government";

WHEREAS, in the internecine strife the President had with his envious political detractors, he came out more revered, more esteemed and more determined to follow his good policies; now therefore,

Upon motion of Governor Pimentel Seconded by Governor Madarang

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RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to reassert and reaffirm the confidence, cooperation and total support of the Conference of Governors and City Mayors to the administration of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino,

RESOLVED FURTHER, to forward copies of this resolution to His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino for his information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No. 6

WHEREAS, His Excellency, the President of the Philippines has given the assurance that peace and order is already established in the country;

WHEREAS, a certain number of his detractors have made assertions and charges to the contrary merely for the purpose of political expediency and to frustrate the well-intentioned aims of the administration for the attainment of such ends;

WHEREAS, this Body censures and condemns the unwarranted act of these Congressmen who presented a resolution in Congress to demand the resignation of the Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior and the Chief, Philippine Constabulary, for alleged failure to restore peace and order;

WHEREAS, this assertion of the unwarranted resolution is contradictory to the actual state of peace and order as being confirmed by this Body who are more responsible of the peace and order situation in our respective provinces and cities; and therefore,

Upon motion of Governor Chioco of Nueva Ecija and seconded by Governor Madarang of Nueva Vizcaya be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to assert and affirm full confidence of this Body to Honorable Sotero Baluyut, Secretary of the Interior and to General Alberto Ramos, Chief, Philippine Constabulary,

RESOLVED FURTHER, to forward with copies of this resolution to the Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, Manila, and to the Chief, Philippine Constabulary, Camp Crame, Quezon City, for their information.

Carried unanimously.

No. 7

WHEREAS, there is room for improvement of the state of peace and order in Central Luzon by strengthening and reinforcing the Philippine Constabulary;

WHEREAS, it is known that the budget of the Constabulary is likely to be reduced by the Congress of the Philippines with the result that a great number of the Constabulary and members of the Philippine Army may be laid off and its equipment and supplies correspondingly reduced;

WHEREAS, the Constabulary deserves, more than any branch of the Government, a bigger budget for its operation and expenses, taking into account the sporadic restlessness in certain parts of the country;

WHEREAS, it is necessary, for reasons of national security that the members of the law-enforcing agencies should not only be given the necessary superior arms and equipment for military operation but also radios, tanks, jeeps, trucks, and airplanes, to maintain peace and order, all these things being indispensable to an effective military force to combat lawlessness and banditry sporadically occurring in some of the Central Luzon province; now therefore,

On motion of Governor Chioco, seconded by Governor Madarang,

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, make the necessary representation to His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, in order that the latter may prevail upon the Congress of the Philippines to increase the present budget of the Constabulary, in order that these entities may be able to acquire all the necessary military equipment aforementioned to be able to maintain peace and order,

RESOLVED FINALLY, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Honorable, the President of the Senate, Ma-

nila.

Carried unanimously.

No. 8

WHEREAS, the Administration is always amenable to the policy of granting greater autonomy to the Provincial and City Government in the exercise of their prerogatives;

WHEREAS, it has been always the desire of the Governors and City Mayors to be granted more local autonomy in the exercise of their powers and prerogatives over matters affecting their respective provinces and cities;

WHEREAS, the Provincial or City Boards charged with the preparation of the budget of the province or city, may create, abolish, increase or diminish appropriations in the provincial or city budget;

WHEREAS, the Governor or City Mayor, being the Chief Executive of the province or city has great sway for the creation, appropriation, and authorization of any of the provincial or city funds of the province or city; now therefore,

Upon motion of Governor Pimentel and seconded by Governor Ribo;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to request the Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, Manila, to draft a Bill to amend Section 2681 of the Revised Administrative Code empowering the Governor or City Mayor to appoint all employees drawing salaries or wages from any of the provincial or city funds,

RESOLVED FURTHER, to forward copies of this resolution to the Honorable, the Secretary of the Interior, Manila, for his information and favorable consideration.

Carried unanimously.

No. 9

WHEREAS, we are aware of the unquestionable character, integrity and sincerity of President Elpidio Quirino, both as a citizen and as the Chief Magistrate of the land, coupled with his brilliance and distinguished abilities in the administration of the government affairs of our Republic;

WHEREAS, we are in full accord with the policies of His Excellency the President with respect to the internal as well as the external relations and foreign policies of the government;

WHEREAS, we believe in the wisdom of the means adopted by His Excellency the President in the restoration and maintenance of peace and order throughout the country as well as in the restoration and strengthening of the confidence and faith of the people in this government;

WHEREAS, through the "complete and concrete economic and industrialization program" of His Excellency the President we foresee progress and prosperity in the future of our country, conducive to the happiness, contentment and honor of the Filipino people, thereby making the election of President Quirino a public necessity;

WHEREAS, by virtue of the manifest and sincere desire and effort of His Excellency the President to clean the government of graft and corruption he has earned for himself the respect, admiration and faith of our people in his leadership;

NOW THEREFORE,

Be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Governors and City Mayors in conference assembled, nominate and endorse, as they hereby nominate and endorse, His Excellency President Elpidio Quirino as their official candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of the Philippines in the forthcoming national elections;

Resolved further, that each and every member of the Conference of Governors and City Mayors will spare no effort in the furtherance and carrying into effect this resolution upon their respective constituencies;

Resolved finally, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the President of the Philippines, His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, to the Honorable Senate President Mariano Jesus Cuenco, and to the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives Eugenio Perez, and that this resolution be given the widest publicity possible.

(To be continued)