



**JOINT SAC & SEDP GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**“Building Sustainable Communities through Servant Leadership”**  
**November 27, 2017, 5:00PM – 7:00PM**  
**SEDP Social Hall, The Chancery, Cathedral Compound,**  
**Albay District, Legazpi City**

**MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**I. Preliminaries and Opening Message**

The Joint SAC and SEDP General Assembly 2017 began with an opening prayer led by Fr. Levie Euprepes Quitasol, SEDP MDS Director and Understudy of the President and CEO, and followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Ms. Salvi Rufina Angela Morcoso, SEDP Director for Finance and Administration and Emcee of the event, acknowledged the guests and participants who were present composing of SAC and SEDP regular members, automatic members, auxiliary members representing the government sector, academe sector, business sector, CSO/NGO/PO, At-Large, VCSC, and PCSC, and SAC and SEDP employees.

Most Reverend Joel Z. Baylon, Bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi and Chair of both SAC and SEDP Board of Trustees (BOT), began his opening message by acknowledging painful moments recently experienced by the Diocese such as the passing of Fr. Bienvenido Realuyo Jr. who was on active duty. He said that our humanity becomes real in the face of death, and recognized the relativity in all efforts that we do which has an end sooner or later. He went on by also acknowledging all the efforts done by both SAC and SEDP to respond to the challenge of the church to reach to the poor and recognize their rights and dignity, and to give them the opportunity to be recognized that they too are children of God. However, he said that the real challenge in our service, in relation to the gospel reading in the previous day, is to be able to recognize Jesus in the face of the poor that we serve and to find God in what we do. He believed that the Lord is constantly calling us to transcend from things we are too comfortable with because of the many blessings and successes achieved; to find God in the things that we do and the people we meet. He encouraged everyone to rejoice that the Lord understands our efforts despite of our inabilities of what we are. Lastly, he congratulated each and everyone for the generosity given, commitment shared, and positive attitudes manifested in spite of the limitations, inadequacies, and inability of the Diocese to respond to their many needs.

**II. Orientation on the Joint General Assembly and Presentation of Reports**

Msgr. Crispin C. Bernarte, Jr., Diocesan Vicar General for Administration and SEDP BOT Vice Chair gave the Orientation on the Joint SAC & SEDP GA where he discussed the objectives of the assembly and the compliance with provisions set forth in both SAC and SEDP By-

Laws. This was followed by the presentation of 2017 reports by SEDP through a video presentation and by SAC given by Ms. Mabel Ofemaria, SAC ATF Program Supervisor.

### III. Ratification of Amended SAC By-Laws

Mr. Carlos Ante, SAC Governance Committee Member, presented for ratification the amended SAC By-Laws as follows:

Current SAC By-law	Proposed Amendment
<p><b>Article II – Membership</b></p> <p>1. CLASSIFICATION: The members of the corporation shall be classified into permanent, regular and auxiliary members.</p> <p>2. AUTOMATIC MEMBERS: Those persons occupying the following titles and positions in the Diocese of Legazpi, during their incumbency, shall be considered as automatic members of the corporation:</p> <p>(a) The Bishop            (b) The Vicar(s) General            (c) The Vicars Forane of the three vicariates            (d) Diocesan SAC Vicarial Coordinators            (e) Diocesan BEC Commission Chairman_(f) Diocesan Youth Director            (g)Members of Diocesan SAC Executive Team (as amended on June 28, 2003)</p> <p>4. AUXILIARY MEMBERS: All other persons admitted as members of the corporation who do not qualify as permanent or as regular members shall be considered as auxiliary members...</p> <p>6. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS: Each member shall have the following rights:</p> <p>a) To cast a vote on any matter submitted to a vote of the members, except that only the permanent and regular members shall be entitled to vote in the election of the members of the Board of Trustees;...</p>	<p>CLASSIFICATION: The members of the corporation shall be classified into <b>automatic</b>, regular and auxiliary members. <i>(as amended on October 16, 2017)</i></p> <p>AUTOMATIC MEMBERS: Those persons occupying the following titles and positions in the Diocese of Legazpi, during their incumbency, shall be considered as automatic members of the corporation:</p> <p>(a) The Bishop  <b>(b) The Vicars General</b>            (c) The Vicars Forane  <b>(d) The Chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Social Concerns</b>  <b>(e) The Chairmen of the Vicarial Commissions on Social Concerns</b>  <b>(f) The Diocesan Eoconomus</b>  <b>(g) SAC Executive Director</b>  <i>(as amended on October 16, 2017)</i></p> <p>AUXILIARY MEMBERS : All other persons admitted as members of the corporation who do not qualify as <b>automatic</b> or regular members shall be considered as auxiliary members...<i>(as amended on October 16, 2017)</i></p> <p>RIGHTS OF MEMBERS: Each member shall have the following rights:</p> <p>a) To cast a vote on any matter submitted to a vote of the members, except that only the <b>automatic</b> regular members shall be entitled to vote in the election of the members of the Board of Trustees;...(as amended on October 16, 2017)</p>
<p><b>Article III – The Board of Trustees</b></p>	

<p>1. COMPOSITION: The general management of the corporation shall be vested in a Board of Trustees which shall consist of eleven members, six (6) of whom are to be elected by the automatic and regular members from among the members of the corporation...and the remaining five (5) to be composed of the members of the corporation occupying titles and positions in the Diocese of Legazpi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi</li> <li>b) The Vicar(s) General</li> <li>c) Three (3) members of the Diocesan SAC Executive Team</li> </ul> <p>6. REGULAR MEETING OF TRUSTEES: Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held without call on the first Monday of the Month of February at 4:00 p.m. of the said day, at the principal office of the corporation...</p>	<p>COMPOSITION: The general management of the corporation shall be vested in a Board of Trustees which shall consist of eleven members, six (6) of whom are to be elected by the automatic and regular members from among the members of the corporation...and the remaining five (5) to be composed of the members of the corporation occupying titles and positions in the Diocese of Legazpi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi</li> <li>b) <b>The Vicars General</b></li> <li>c) <b>The Chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Social Concerns</b></li> <li>d) <b>The Diocesan Oeconomus</b></li> <li>e) <b>The SAC Executive Director (Ex-officio)</b> <i>(as amended on October 16, 2017)</i></li> </ul> <p>REGULAR MEETING OF TRUSTEES : Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be <b>at least twice a year</b> at the principal office of the corporation...<i>(as amended on October 16, 2017)</i></p>
<p><b>Article IV – Officers of the Corporation</b></p> <p>1. OFFICERS: The principal officers of the corporation shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary...</p> <p>5. PRESIDENT: The President, who must be a member of the corporation, shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall in general supervise and control all the business and affairs of the corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees. He may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the corporation authorized by the Board of Trustee, any deals, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments, which the Board of Trustees has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be delegated by the Board of Trustees or these by-laws or by statue to some other</p>	<p>OFFICERS: The principal officers of the corporation shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, <b>and the Executive Director</b>...<i>(as amended on October 2017)</i></p> <p><b>PRESIDENT: He shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees. He may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the corporation authorized by the Board of Trustee, any deals, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments, which the Board of Trustees has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be delegated by the Board of Trustees or these by-laws or by statue to some other officer or agent of the corporation; and in general, he shall perform all duties as maybe prescribed by the Board of Trustees from time to time. (as amended on October 2017)</b></p>

<p>officer or agent of the corporation; and in general, he shall perform all duties as maybe prescribed by the Board of Trustees from time to time.</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - The Executive Director shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the corporation and shall in general supervise and control all the business and affairs of the corporation.</p>
<p><b>Article V – Meeting of the Corporation</b>  2. REGULAR MEETING: The members of the corporation shall meet regularly once a year on the first Monday of the Month of February at 4:00 p.m. of the said day at the principal office of the corporation...</p>	<p>REGULAR MEETING: The members of the corporation shall meet regularly once a year on the <b>last Monday of the Month of November at 4:00 pm</b> at the principal office of the corporation... <i>(as amended on October 16, 2017)</i></p>

After presentation, upon motion made by Ms. Remegia L. Balucio and duly seconded by Fr. Paulo Barandon, the amended SAC By-laws was ratified.

#### IV. Recognition and Short Messages

In recognition of their exceptional leadership and governance service, following SEDP BOT Members were awarded during the assembly:

1. Msgr. Ramon C. Tronqued
2. Fr. Ramoncito Segubiense
3. Mrs. Preciosa Belleza – recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for her 14-year service
4. Mrs. Conchita Rodriguez
5. Mrs. Jeresha San Jose
6. Atty. Mary Ailyne Zamora
7. Mrs. Joyce Besana
8. Mr. Joseph Lim

On the other hand, Fr. Rex Paul Arjona requested motion to reconfirm the membership of current SAC Board of Trustees for a period of three years from 2017 to 2020. The election was held last March 17, 2017 and the following are the elected SAC BOTs:

1. Most Rev. Bishop Z. Baylon D.D.
2. Msgr. Ramon Tronqued
3. Msr. Crispin Bernarte Jr
4. Fr. Paulo Barandon
5. Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo
6. Fr. Rex Paul Arjona (Ex-officio)

7. Dr. Dolores Laguilles – representing the academe sector
8. Mr. Carlos Ante – from the government sector
9. Mr. Romeo Tan – from the business sector
10. Mr. Ramon Lawenko – from the professional and finance sector
11. Mrs. Remegia Balucio – representing CSO
12. Ms. Nelly Gonzales – from the Vicarial Social Concerns

Upon motion made by Bishop Baylon and duly seconded by Mrs. Belleza, the membership of current SAC Board of Trustees for a period of three years from 2017 to 2020 was reconfirmed.

Mrs. Belleza, in her speech, recognized the efforts, cooperation, and commitment given by SEDP staff starting from janitors to the chief executives in the success of the institution. She said that the most important asset of an organization is its human resource and she looks forward to an internationally recognized SEDP in the coming years.

Similarly, Dr. Dolores Laguilles, SAC BOT Members, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the organization that she admired ever since, and hope to contribute in the service to humanity through responsive church-based commitment.

## **V. Keynote Message**

Ms. Caroline Ubalde, BCDI Executive Director, introduced the keynote speaker of the assembly, Mr. Arnulfo Mascariñas, President of the Bicol University (BU).

Mr. Mascariñas started his message by expressing his deep honor for the privilege to address with priests and lay leaders who are involved in significant service of poverty alleviation and social transformation. He said that the issue on poverty is not something new as we encountered it in the homeless and nameless people in the street, and discussed in fora and symposia, being one of the most popular social malady. However, saying that we care for the poor but not doing what we must intend to do for them is not enough. He believed that real change can only happen when a holistic and genuine development of persons' entire socio-economic situations are given priority by building sustainable communities anchored on the principles of servant leadership.

He went on by looking at the economic growth and the reduction of poverty incidence in the Bicol Region throughout the years brought about by infrastructure upgrading, more investments, construction, ecotourism, and Government's prudent financial management. As a result, Bicol is no longer the poorest region of the country. But beyond these immediate economic implications is the manner by which local leaders are living and serving the people by crafting relevant and timely poverty alleviation programs through various agencies that contributed to the economic progress of the region. However, he believed that behind these economic figures, including the local and national governments' efforts in pushing economic reforms, the Church, as an institution, has been a compelling

presence in the pursuit of genuine economic reforms centered on building sustainable and empowered communities strengthened by servant leadership. A servant leader is meant to serve and not be served, to be a good steward of resources given by God to His people, brings together the synergy of his people into a clear, common and shared vision so that the vision becomes everybody's ambition. This is what the Church through its SAC and SEDP have continuously done as servant leaders.

He said that BU is extremely grateful for the productive partnership that it has forged and maintained with SAC and SEDP. He also professed his oneness with both institutions in building the church of the poor by empowering servant leaders and resilient communities for integral and sustainable development. He believed that building servant leadership will not be a reality without the synergy of the church, academe, and local government units over resources and capacities toward sustainable development of the region.

Lastly, he said that as a simple man he looked at sustainable and empowered development as servant leadership in action. It is a matter of having a clear heart, manifested by good motives and right intentions with clear purpose to create good thoughts that will be ground by clear and good vision. This vision will transform into good actions will in turn, create ripples of change strengthened by good administration, governance and stewardship. Failures will be committed along the way but not intentional thus, let faith and Divine Providence serve as guidance.

## **VI. Announcement of the New BOT Members**

Fr. Paulo Barandon, SEDP BOT Member and Chairman of Commission on Election, announced the new members of the SEDP BOT, viz:

1. Ms. Marlene Catalina Rodriguez – representing the government sector
2. Dr. Nora Licup – representing the academe sector
3. Mr. Joseph Lim – representing the business sector
4. Ms. Joyce Besana – representing the professional sector
5. Atty. Milagros Quijano – representing the at-large
6. Ms. Mary Ann Boneo – representing the CSO/PO/NGO

## **VII. Closing Remarks**

Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo, SEDP President & CEO delivered the closing message. He said that the year 2017 was fruitful for SAC and SEDP with their strong partnerships with various agencies and institutions and awards received by SEDP as a result of labor, hardwork, and commitment. Among these are Paeng Awards for Outstanding MFI-Innovations in Microfinance and SSS Balikang Bayan Award. However, for an MFI, the most significant award is when the country recognizes its reason for being i.e. winning the prestigious Citi Microentrepreneur Award of the Year by the SEDP member, Nanay Merle Paete. He continued by enumerating the following directions of both SAC and SEDP: promoting local

economic development, enhancing social protection initiatives, and mainstreaming programs and services to parishes through the Diocese Commission on Social Concerns. Lastly, he thanked all the board members, mutually supporting institutions, collaborators and joint general assembly members, partners, and employees for the continued support, guidance, and commitment.

#### **VIII. MOA Signing for the SEDP Care Program**

Fr. Lorigo together with Ms. Balucio had a MOA signing with the owners of accredited funeral parlors for the SEDP Care Program namely, St. Judith Memorial Chapel for 1<sup>st</sup> District of Albay, Bejer-Basco Funeral Parlor – 2<sup>nd</sup> District, and L.J. Borbe Funeral Parlor – 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

There being no other matters to present and discuss, the assembly was adjourned at 7:00PM.