

SAINT-JOSSE  
SINT-JOOST

# ***Report***

***Of the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode delegation's  
mission to the***

# ***Philippines***

***In the context of international cooperation***

***- 11 to 22 February 2016 -***

***“Where there is no vision, the people perish”***

Proverbs 29;18

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## 1 Introduction – the context of the mission

For many years, the Municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode has been setting up **decentralised international cooperation** projects with North Africa and more specifically with Morocco, in the Oriental Region.

To this end, an agreement was concluded with the urban municipality of Ain’Bni Matar and the rural municipality of Bni Matar in the Jerada province in 2011.

The College of Mayor and Aldermen also wished to establish the twinning with the towns of Tangiers (Morocco) and Eskisehir (Turkey) in 2014.

In May 2015, the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode signed a cooperation protocol with the Council of the Jerada province. For the political authorities involved, this agreement was a natural extension to the work we had undertaken with the municipalities of Ain’Bni Matar and Bni Matar.

On the 26 May 2015, the Municipal Council of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode took the decision to join the network of Belgian local authorities for Palestine, for which Alderman Eric Jassin is now Vice President.

Around the same time, in January 2013, the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode implemented an **Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity** with the aim of undertaking initiatives to raise awareness of North-South solidarity throughout the municipal territory. This is reflected in concrete terms by initiatives which bring together civil society and the dense community network of the municipality.

In the context of decentralised international cooperation, Saint-Josse-ten-Noode undertook a fact-finding mission last year in South-East Asia and more specifically the Philippines<sup>1</sup>, a decision which was made in consultation with the Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity. Following this mission, the municipality of Binalonan was selected as a partner.

The actions taken by the Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity have a close link with decentralised international cooperation initiatives similar to the Gospel initiatives in the Philippines and India, or the ‘fair brunch’ initiative for Morocco or solidarity meals benefiting different associations in the South including Cameroon, Morocco, the Philippines, etc.

Alderman Jassin therefore wanted to associate the Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity with the mission to the Philippines in 2016 so that its members could not only observe the results of their initiatives in Belgium but also ascertain if the funds invested had been used for the best purposes and whether the spirit of assistance and partnership had been respected.

The results and observations of the mission to the Philippines are detailed in the present report.

The mission in 2016 revealed that the Annual Operational Plan (AOP) initiated by Binalonan, in partnership with the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, is making significant progress.

Furthermore, it should be recalled that the context of the decentralised international cooperation work of the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode is social action, an area in which the municipality excels. It is effectively its trademark, its core business. Therefore, if the ‘Philippines’ AOP has an important economic dimension. It is above all to enable the accomplishment of the social purpose of our initiative by sharing our social experience and expertise with the municipality of Binalonan.

This aspect of the partnership is achieved in particular through visits to our partner in Belgium. Representatives of the authorities and administration of Binalonan visited Belgium from the 21 to 24 June 2015. They were able, among other things, to visit the nursing home of the Public Centre for Social Action, the Public Works department of the Local Mission of Saint-Josse, the Mandela sports hall, the municipal library, the container park, the non-profit Family Home association, the Saint-

<sup>1</sup>See report of the fact-finding mission to the Philippines 2015

François swimming pool, the Théâtre Le Public, the Jazz-Station, the Théâtre de la Vie, etc.

This is only the beginning of the partnership. The programme is actually planned to last 5 years during which time each of the partners will undertake one mission per year to each municipality.

The mission is therefore one step closer to building our common future.



## 2 Aims of the mission to the Philippines

For its mandate of 2012-2018, the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode committed itself to strengthening its international solidarity policy, among other things.

Our initiative and mission to the Philippines fall squarely within this context.

### 2.1 Financing the mission



As in 2015, the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode would not have been able to envisage a mission to the Philippines without external financial assistance.

It was the decentralised Municipal Development Cooperation<sup>2</sup> (2014-2019), developed by the Flemish International Department<sup>3</sup> and the encouragement of the Flemish Government which enabled us to carry out the mission in 2016.

Its purpose is to “*strengthen municipal institutions in the South to combat poverty, one of the elements of which is insufficient access of the population to public goods and services, especially locally. The programme of the Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA)<sup>4</sup> enhances the capacity of municipalities in the South to take charge of their own local development through a policy of good governance, efficient administration, and citizen participation in the decision-making process.*” This global objective is achieved thanks to ‘municipality to municipality’ partnerships.

### 2.2 Aims of the mission

The aims of this mission are the follow-up and evaluation of the work already carried out, the strengthening of relationships already established, the possibility to explore the social fabric of Binalonan as well as the development of new avenues for partnership.

Within the decentralised municipal cooperation programme, accompanying the partners and making visits on the ground are an integral part of the partnership.

We have got to know our partners and were able to verify the progress of the cooperation protocol as well as use of the funds which were provided by the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode in the context of the action plan (see the various developments in the report).

Acting within the spirit of decentralised international cooperation, the first action plan<sup>5</sup> was jointly financed by Saint-Josse-ten-Noode and Binalonan, with Saint-Josse investing €20,000 (or 1,000,000 pesos) and Binalonan investing €4,000 (or 200,000 pesos).

<sup>2</sup>Subsidie Gemeentelijke Ontwikkelingssamenwerking.

<sup>3</sup>Vlaamse overheid – Departement Internationaal Vlaanderen – Afdeling Mondiale Uitdagingen.

<sup>4</sup>Vlaams Agentschap voor Internationale Samenwerking.

<sup>5</sup>Programme: Binalonan Food production and Packaging Facility - Project: acquisition of a mobile store (motorised food stalls).

### 3 Belgian Delegation 2016

The Belgian delegation was composed of :



**Eric Jassin**  
Deputy Mayor of International Relations and Cooperation



**Rukiye Kavak**  
Personal Assistant to Deputy Mayor Mr. Eric Jassin



**Kaltouma Issaka**  
Administrative Secretary for the Department for Local and International Solidarity



**Nathalie Ista**  
Administrative Secretary for the Office of the Municipal Receiver

The delegation was accompanied by members of the Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity :



**Adèle Essoh**  
Its president



**Zohra Othmani**



**Dalila Ben Mohamed**



**Ebru Uckuyulu**



**Laïla El Bied**



**Ibrahim Uckuyulu**

On the ground, we were accompanied by Mrs **Delphina Gacula**, Professor at the WCC Aeronautical & Technological College, Mrs **Élisabeth Aquino**, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, Mr. **Norman V. Ramos**, Municipal Local Government Operations Officer and Mrs **Necie Lucero**. Secretary General of the Confederation of Democratic Workers of the Philippines (CDWP).

## 4 Details of the visits

### 4.1 Manila

#### Description

Date	Friday 12/02/16
Activities	Arrival at Manila in the early afternoon
Other relevant features	A town of 10 million inhabitants

#### Review of the visit

The delegation arrived at Manila in the early afternoon. After checking-in at the Hotel Jen in the Pasay district, the delegation visited the area around the hotel and went to the Mall of Asia, which is the biggest shopping centre in South-East Asia.

### 4.2 Intramural Manila & Binalonan

#### Description

Date	Saturday 13/02/16
Activities	Morning: Manila – ‘intramural’ visit Afternoon: departure, journey and arrival at Binalonan
Other relevant features	Distance between Manila and Binalonan: 200 km (approximately) and a 5-hour journey due to the intense traffic in the capital, Manila.

#### Review of the visit

We visited the ‘*Intramural*’ quarter which is the oldest part of Manila: it is relatively well protected from the rapid urbanisation and has conserved its historic character from the time of Spanish colonisation. This quarter was built by the Spanish in the



16<sup>th</sup>

century. It is situated along the southern bank of the river 'Pasig'.

We spent a long time in particular at Fort Santiago, at its park, and at the 'Rizal' museum, named after José Rizal, a martyr to the independence cause. Outside the fort we discovered the 'Catedral de Manila' as well as the 'Iglesia de San Agustin', which we explored. We went past the Governor's Palace.

A little further, on the Plaza San Luis, we visited the 'Casa Manila'. This was a Spanish trader's house at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is characterised by beautiful woodwork and an interior courtyard garden.



In the afternoon, we went by minibus to Binalonan, where we checked in at the end of the evening. We stayed at a very interesting place, since it was the 'WCC aeronautical & technological college'<sup>6</sup>.

This is a private aviation school founded in 2005 by the Mayor of Binalonan, Ramon V. Guico III. It totalled 140 students in 2013-2014 and currently has 650.

It trains pilots, air hostesses and stewards but also technical and maintenance personnel specialised in the upkeep of aircraft.

The training revolves around putting the students in 'real' situations. This is why the campus is not equipped with student rooms as such, but an area which functions like a hotel so that the students stay in conditions similar to what they will encounter in their future careers. This is where our rooms were made available. On campus<sup>7</sup>, there is also a flight simulator, an aerodrome, and small tourist aircraft which are used by the apprentice pilots (cessnas), etc.

The aerodrome adjacent to the campus is completely operational and functions as a small airport.

An airline, Sky Pasada, has set up there and serves the Batanes Islands<sup>8</sup>. There are plans to develop other internal routes in the Philippines in the future.



<sup>6</sup>To learn more about the 'WCC aeronautical & technological college', visit their website:

<http://www.wccaerotechcollege.edu.ph/>. Their philosophy and values: 'Integrity first. Excellence in all we do. Leadership in all our aspirations.' » D'abord l'intégrité. L'excellence dans tout ce que nous faisons. Le leadership dans toutes nos aspirations.

<sup>7</sup>We went on to revisit this campus a bit later during our stay. See below p.14.

<sup>8</sup>See below point 4.5.



### 4.3 *Manaoag / Packaging centre, training centre, ‘couscous’ workshop*

Description

Date	Sunday 14/02/2016
Activities	Manaoag – Santo Nino church – local market – packaging centre – training centre - local ‘university’ – couscous workshop
Other relevant features	Manaoag: up to 56,000 pilgrims every day – up to 5 million every year

Review of the visit

**Manaoag** is a pilgrimage town which is located in the Pangasinan province. It is famous for Our Lady of the Rosary, venerated in the sanctuary of Manaoag. It is a very popular place of pilgrimage in the Philippines. Filipinos are predominantly Catholic and have conserved a lively Christian faith. This place of pilgrimage was founded in 1605 by the Dominicans, the Augustinians having occupied the site before 1600. According to historical accounts, the Virgin has appeared in this spot, calling out to request the building of a chapel (**‘The Lady who calls’**). She blessed the site and it subsequently became a place where miracles occurred. The name of the site recalls this story since ‘Manoag’ means ‘to call’.

After this we visited the church of Binalonan, **‘Santo Nino’**, which is in the process of being renovated and designated.



Later in the day we visited the local **sports facilities**, in particular the ‘tennis centre’ and the gymnasium to continue our ‘tour’, and we also passed by the building which is used for the implementation of local ‘disaster plans’ and first aid. It is used regularly, given the numerous typhoons which unfortunately affect this part of the country.



The visit to the municipality’s training centre allowed us to observe the reality of the other side of the project with Saint-Josse-ten-Noode<sup>9</sup>, the packaging centre: part of the building is effectively equipped with cold rooms which still require some electrical improvements to be completely operational (the municipality is currently looking for specialist electricians to undertake this work). The site is set up to be able to package fresh and dried fruits and vegetables as well as juices. The finished products are intended to be sold to the market thanks to the mobile-store-transport of the producing villages or to be exported.

**The project is therefore on the right track to being successful.**

Furthermore, the Binalonan municipality gave us an insight into the spiritual guidance offered by the training centre: it considers that the current system is effective and allows the churches (Catholic



<sup>9</sup>Purchase of mobile stores.

and Evangelical) and the state to work together in harmony, which is important for the population.

We also visited the '**composter**' which transforms the leftovers from the local market into compost through a clean and odourless system which inoculates micro-organisms.



The visit to the **market** of Binalonan allowed us to make the various necessary purchases to take part in the Couscous workshop which was organised in the afternoon with a group of ladies from Binalonan.

Our final destination for the day was the local '**University**' on the premises where we took part in the '**couscous**' workshop. Although this university does not correspond to our interpretation of a university in Europe. It is in fact a school for 13 to 16 year olds in which students can follow training courses for the



hotel/restaurant industry, management, business administration, IT, criminology, foreign relations, midwifery, etc.



Prior to this, we had also explored the local museum which highlights the life and works of several eminent local citizens (heroes) such as Manuel V. Moran, Evangelina Macaraeg-Macapagal, Carlos, S. Bulosan and Ramon J. Guico, Sr.

The afternoon was spent taking part in the couscous workshop during which the 'leading' ladies of Binalonan attempted to prepare the dish for around 70 people who came to taste it in the evening, much to everyone's satisfaction.

Zohra Othmani, an inhabitant of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode and member of the Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity, led the workshop.





## 4.4

### 4.5 Day of official activities

#### Description

Date	Monday 15 February 2016
Activities	Flag ceremony – Official meeting with the Mayor, the municipal ‘Council’ - observation of a Council session – Discussion on the progress of our cooperation
Other relevant features	The political and administrative functioning of a municipality in the Philippines

#### Review of the visit

Monday was a day for more formal and official.

#### Monday morning

The day started with a **Flag Ceremony**. every Monday morning, the Mayor, the municipal council and all employees meet at 8.00am exactly at the ‘Municipal Hall Ground’ to honour the national flag. The priest made a speech. One or more employees are also honoured during the ceremony and congratulated for their excellent work during the week. The different speeches allowed us to observe the importance that the municipality attaches to ‘discipline’ at work.



We were then received by the ‘Municipal Mayor’, **Ramon V. Guico III**, in his office. He explained that the basic administrative organisation of the municipality was divided between three branches: the Mayor who implements the programme (executive), the ‘Municipal Vice Mayor’, **Melicio Flores Patagay II**, constitutes the ‘legislative’ aspect and presides over the ‘Council’, in other words the legislative body of the municipality. The municipality is autonomous in relation to the national government.

He also explained that the municipalities are made up of ‘**barangays**’ which are the smallest administrative units in the Philippines. The municipality of Binalonan includes 24 barangays organised in the same way (three branches) as the main municipality. The political and administrative authorities settle all specific problems encountered by the population, in particular marital problems, police issues, early childhood issues, etc.

At least once a year, the barangays meet with the municipal council. Each local council sends representatives to the municipal council. The ‘youth government’ also sends a representative.

Binalonan is a '**first-class municipality**', the 'classes' referring to the budget level, \$3,500,000 for Binalonan. Their revenue includes local taxes. 40% to 45% of their revenue also comes from the local economy. We learnt that the voluntary sector is also very active within the municipality.

The Mayor appreciated the cooperation with Saint-Josse-ten-Noode enormously, even declaring it to be 'providential' for the municipality. He shared his long-term vision with us: he would like to involve farmers, women and the local government. The next two years will be dedicated, in the context of cooperation, to developing local products, marketing them and selling them.



Saint-Josse-ten-Noode's contribution enabled them to purchase 4 **mobile-stores**, offering local producers an element of mobility which allows them to make their grown and processed products available at a local level, and these include sausages, vinegar and a whole range of other products.

The municipality is not only focused on business but primarily wishes to improve quality of life for the local population. It aims to involve civil society and the voluntary sector more and more in the long term. From this perspective, the cooperation with Saint-Josse-ten-Noode has given it the opportunity to mobilise inhabitants and the voluntary sector in the issue of cooperation and to include an international dimension in the scope of its plans.

The Mayor highlighted the fact that the context of decentralised cooperation enabled them not just to envisage projects from a financial angle, but also in terms of a knowledge exchange.

We were invited to sample various local products which the municipality would like to commercialise, in particular their succulent mangos and other treats made from rice.

Alderman Mr **Eric Jassin** offered different flags to the municipality of Binalonan, in particular the European, Belgian, Flemish, Brussels-Capital Region and Saint-Josse-ten-Noode flags.

Following this, we took part in a session of the municipal council ('**Regular session of the Sangguniang Bayan of Binalonan, Pangasinan**') during which each member of the Belgian delegation was introduced. The Mayor gave an official speech and detailed the essence of our cooperation. Alderman Mr Jassin also gave a speech thanking the municipality.

The municipal council proposed a resolution whereby Binalonan would officially recognise the 15 February as '**Friendship Day**' (Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 2016/47), symbolising the friendship which has grown through the cooperation between Binalonan and Saint-Josse-ten-

Noode, and the gratitude of the municipality for this partnership. The motion was unanimously approved by the council.



The council proposed another resolution relating to the extension of our partnership, which aims to secure assistance for ‘constructing’ a municipal library.

The Mayor introduced all the officials of the different departments of the municipality.

### **Monday afternoon**

In the afternoon, the municipal council, the Mayor and the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode delegation convened to take stock of the partnership between Saint-Josse-ten-Noode and Binalonan and envisage the future of our collaboration.

The aim of the meeting more specifically was to review the ongoing projects with Saint-Josse-ten-Noode and to envisage the continuation of the partnership and next visit.

Ramon V. Guico III indicated Binalonan’s desire to commit itself and work intensely towards the achievement of the projects.



→ *Economic development through more mobile-stores*

It was clear that the municipality was looking for financial opportunities which will benefit the local treasury via the development of local business and, specifically, the development of local products such as the sausages, vinegar, chicken, dried fruits and vegetables produced by the farmers from the surrounding areas and sold through the **'mobile-stores'**. He would like the municipality to be able to have up to 100 mobile-stores: the municipality would take care of fuel (1L for 35km) and maintenance. They would be leased out to the population, which would require the implementation of a micro-credit system.

→ *Create an activity centre with a central municipal library*

Another project is to set up a **municipal library** at university level for students. To this end, the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode delegation proposed the organisation of a visit to a games library during Binalonan's next visit to Belgium.

The Mayor explained that various libraries exist in the barangays, but the municipality would like to install an activity centre more specifically, within two or three years, which would contain the central library.



However, the priority for the municipality remains economic development since **children still go to school hungry**. The municipality wants to offer citizens the chance to earn a living and provide for their family.

The Mayor likes to think that one day, a father will be able to say to his children that he supported his family and enabled his children to go to school thanks to a mobile-store! It is a long-term project which will benefit the people of the region enormously.

Furthermore, Saint-Josse offered to work with local associations and possibly to organise rallies in Belgium from which the proceeds would be sent to Binalonan: the year before, during the Gospel, all the proceeds from the sale of programmes were sent back to the Pangasinense Association of Belgium.

In this sense, Binalonan has two main aims and requirements in the context of the cooperation:

- Purchase more mobile-stores;
- Develop an activity centre with a central library.

In the late afternoon, we took part in a '**mass wedding**', an official ceremony during which 85 couples are married before the municipal authorities. In fact, many Filipinos are unable to afford a traditional wedding<sup>10</sup> due to the high cost. The Binalonan authorities organise a 'mass wedding' once a year in order to allow those who do not have the means to get married legally.

**In the evening**, we visited the night market situated near the municipality building.



<sup>10</sup>A traditional wedding costs more than 30,000 pesos (PHP), the equivalent of €550.

## 4.6 The Batanes Islands - Ecotourism

### Description

Dates	Tuesday and Wednesday 16 & 17 February 2016
Activities	Visit to the Batanes Islands – Ecotourism - Visit to the campus of the WCC Aeronautical & Tehnological College 'Binalonan song and dance contest'
Other relevant features	The island is practically self-sufficient food-wise. It was connected to the electricity network in 1999.

### Review of the visit

Tuesday and Wednesday were spent visiting the Batanes Islands in '*ecotourism*' mode.

This archipelago of ten small islands is situated at the northernmost part of the Philippines, about 190km south of Taiwan. Only three of the islands are inhabited. It is also the smallest and most northerly province of the Republic of the Philippines.



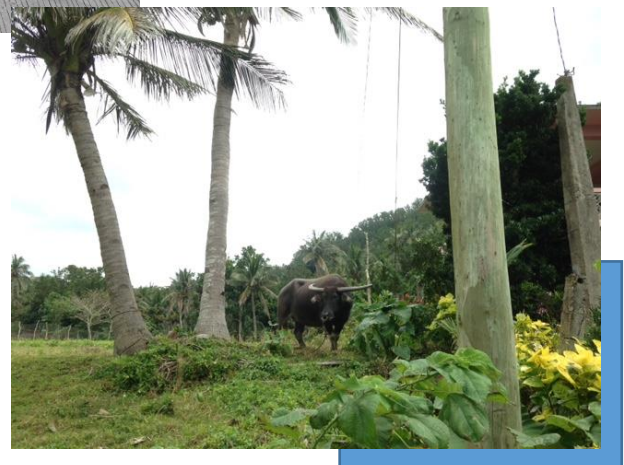
We flew there from Binalonan on the Tuesday morning, with the domestic airline 'Sky Pasada'<sup>11</sup>. This company works with a 'hub and spoke' system whereby different destinations are linked through one central hub, Binalonan, which is where the pilot school is also located<sup>12</sup>.

The Batanes Islands were rather different to what we had seen elsewhere in the Philippines. They were often compared to Ireland or were referred to as the '*Scotland of the Philippines*': they are

green, cold and windy.

There is no mass hotel industry on these islands, partly because the inhabitants wish to preserve its beauty, so they mostly encourage short stays. So we stayed in a guest house on the main island, '*Batan*'<sup>13</sup>.

We spent the afternoon and the next day experiencing *ecotourism* which is a form of sustainable tourism, based around the discovery of nature. It is defined as '*responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the resources and well-being of the local*



<sup>11</sup>See their website: <http://www.skypasada.com/about.php>

<sup>12</sup>See above p.7 and below p. 14.

<sup>13</sup>We stayed for one night at the 'Dive Batanes Lodge'.



people<sup>14</sup>. And this is exactly what we did during these two days accompanied by a local guide.

We visited some surprising areas both in terms of the landscapes and the ‘philosophy’ of the inhabitants.

For example we visited a place which was a total surprise for us, the ‘**Honesty Coffee Shop**’, founded in 1995. The principle is as follows: it is a kind of ‘house-bar-souvenir shop’ where one can buy drinks, snacks, and small, locally-made souvenirs. The house is open to everyone and that is what makes it so special: you will find the list of products you

can buy, the price, and a big register where you write down what you took... and a box to put money in. And yes, this box is not ‘monitored’ or ‘guarded’, the owners count on your honesty to pay what you need to! It is even written on the wall “*Be Honest, Even if others are not, Even if others will not, Even if others cannot*”<sup>15</sup>.

On the island of Batan, we also noticed that the inhabitants engage in works for the common good such as maintenance of the roadsides.

We spent a while in a typical house on these islands which have retained their rugged nature, the ‘**Estrella house**’, built from local stone with a thatched roof, and robust enough to withstand an earthquake of magnitude 8.3 in... September 1918! The house is completely unchanged, apart from the roof which has been refitted since this time. Like all the ‘Ivatan’ houses dating from the Spanish colonial times, the kitchen and toilets were built separately, a few steps from the main house.



We visited the ‘**Japanese tunnel**’ or ‘**Dipnaysuhwan**’ (Basco town), built during the time of the Japanese occupation. It served as a shelter for soldiers. The tunnel had five doors, a series of rooms, an observation bunker and a water reservoir. We moved around in total darkness.



<sup>14</sup>Definition of The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) in 1991.

<sup>15</sup>Traduction « Soyez honnête même si les autres ne le sont pas, même si les autres ne le veulent pas, même si les autres ne le peuvent pas ! »

We then headed for '**Valugan Boulder Beach**', a beach strewn with enormous stones. This natural peculiarity of the landscape formed around



400 AD: the volcanic mountain Iraya, which can still be seen in the background, erupted and ejected andesite boulders<sup>16</sup> around the northern part of Batan, now called Basco. The Pacific wind did the rest by pushing waves against the boulders, eroding and polishing them over time. The landscape here is breath-taking but also wild and stormy, which is ironic given that it is situated next to the 'Pacific' ocean!

Behind the beach we saw the '**Iraya**' volcano, which is still active. Its last eruption was probably in 1454: we know some details nevertheless, specifically that its eruptions were exclusively explosive - there were no lava flows. In 1998, a series of earthquakes occurred below the volcano.

We continued our journey towards the town of **Basco**, where we visited the lighthouse.

Finally, we came to a locality which the locals call '**Marlboro Country**' in memory of the filming of a commercial for the brand of the same name in this area: it is a high place, rugged and green, which faces the sea and the volcano.

We caught the flight back to Binalonan at 2.00pm.

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<sup>16</sup>Andesite: a volcanic rock, typical of the volcanism in convergence zones.

In the late afternoon, we visited the campus of the '**WCC aeronautical & technological college**' and more specifically the science laboratory, library, lecture halls and all their equipment, lounge, swimming pool and, finally, the state-of-the-art flight simulator which the high school had just ac-

quired: Alderman Mr Jassin tried his hand at being a pilot and ensured that the whole group safely arrived at the destination! The campus also houses sports fields (basketball, volleyball, etc.), a function room and a huge hangar large enough to accommodate the thirty or so tourist aeroplanes which are used for the practical training of the student pilots.



In the evening, we took part in the Binalonan ‘*Town Fiesta 2016*’ and in particular the ‘Binalonan Idol song and dance contest’. It was a song and dance contest where children, teenagers and adults could all take part. The Binalonan municipality provided the first prizes in each category and the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode municipality provided the fourth prizes, each with a value of 5,000 pesos (3 x €100).



## **4.7 The Canarvacanan Barangay**

### **Description**

Date	Thursday 18 February 2016
Activities	Canarvacanan Barangay – Binalonan Municipality – Pangasinan Province / Airshow / Meeting with the voluntary sector / Inauguration of the Mobile-Stores
Other relevant features	The Barangay Justice System or ‘Katarungang Pambarangay’

### **Review of the visit**

#### **Thursday morning**

As previously explained, the smallest administrative and territorial unit in the Philippines is the 'Barangay'. The Binalonan municipality has 24 of them. On the Thursday, we visited the Canarvacanan Barangay. It was a chance for us to observe in practical terms how a Barangay functions by taking part in various assemblies.



The specific problems which affect the life of citizens are discussed within the Barangay with the citizens themselves and representatives of the voluntary sector, local businesses, etc.

We were received by the office of the 'Sangguniang Barangay' and took part in a **'session composed of the Sangguniang Barangay of Canarvacanan, Binalonan, Pangasinan'**. It is a public assembly (Council) where the citizens are represented as well as different organisations and functions of civil society. The participants distinguish themselves by wearing different coloured t-shirts and polo shirts.



That day, the question put to the Barangay assembly concerned the 'management' of refuse and the penalties (fines) which would be applied in the event of failure to respect the regulations, or infringement of certain prohibitions. The citizens of Barangay expressed their opinions orally and directly during the discussion of the ordinance. It was adopted at the end of the session and sanctioned by one vote: it became the **'Ecological Solid Waste Management**

**Ordinance of Barangay Canarvacanan**<sup>17</sup>.

The Barangay is also the place where a kind of **direct democracy** takes place: all citizens are directly consulted twice a year on the issues which affect their daily lives.

It is also at the Barangay level that the '**Barangay Justice System**' is carried out (or '**Katarungang Pambarangay**')<sup>18</sup>. It is, so to speak, a 'first level of justice' where members of the same community, the Barangay, can resolve their disputes amicably: the parties in dispute look for a solution which is acceptable for everyone, with assistance from respected members of the community ('**Lupon members**') who act as intermediaries under the 'presidency' of the highest elected official of the Barangay, the **Punong Barangay**.

The Lupon and Punong carry out their functions within the community ex gratia.

It is only in the event that the present parties do not manage to find a resolution and that the case can be brought before the courts after thirty days.

This system of justice has its roots in the Philippine tradition which prefers that community members request the assistance of 'elders' or 'tribal leaders' to help resolve their disputes.

In this way, each member of the Barangay can file a complaint before the Punong. The procedure takes place in three stages: mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

During the **mediation**, the Barangay Punong explains the mediation process, the aims and the rules. Each party formulates their perspective on the dispute. If no settlement is found following the mediation, the parties can attempt a conciliation with the assistance of the respected members of the whole community who take on the role of conciliators or '**Pangkat Tagapagkasundo**'.

During a **conciliation**, three members of the Pangkat are selected by the parties and explore the possibilities of amicable settlement, after having heard them out. A settlement concluded during the conciliation has the same force and effect as a final judgement, similar to a judgement handed down by a court.

**Arbitration** can take place at any point during the procedure as long as the parties commit in writing to respect the arbitration ruling of the Lupon or Pangkat.

The resolution of the dispute can be completed by a transaction in the form of a fine. If the arrangement is not respected, the Barangay Punong will enforce the settlement by taking possession of the personal assets of the obligated party. The proceeds from the sale of these assets will be used to settle the fine.

The amicable settlement acquires the enforceability of a final judgement of the court 10 days after the transaction date.

The different cases are filed in a register, the judgements are recorded and their enforcement is controlled.

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<sup>17</sup>This ordinance is available in the appendix of the present report.

<sup>18</sup>See **Maricel VIGO**, '**Katarungang Pambarangay. A handbook**', Philippines-Canada local Government support programme, 2004, 114 pages. [http://accessfacility.org/sites/default/files/Katarungang%20Pambarangay%20Handbook\\_0.pdf](http://accessfacility.org/sites/default/files/Katarungang%20Pambarangay%20Handbook_0.pdf) and <http://www.accessfacility.org/barangay-justice-system-katarungang-pambarangay>



Later on in the day, we were exceptionally invited to take part in a mediation between two ladies of the Barangay. The case concerned a dog which had bitten the plaintiff. She was worried that the dog had not been vaccinated against rabies. If this were the case, the owner of the dog would be in breach of one of the ordinances of the Barangay. In any event, the owner should have kept the dog confined if it was dangerous. But was it actually the dog of the owner who was present who bit the lady? If in doubt, conciliation takes place and the case can be concluded with a handshake and an embrace between the two parties, as well as the settlement of a financial indemnity.



In the meantime we returned to the Binalonan aerodrome which had welcomed an American pilot, Sean Clarke, who was a specialist in aerial acrobatics<sup>19</sup>. It was the occasion for many of the students at the flight school preparing themselves to fly planes to watch a film on the subject but also to ask the guest some questions. The aerial acrobatics taught us a huge amount about the handling of an aeroplane: *“In this discipline, altitude is the most dangerous aspect but it is also the pilot’s friend if he is performing aerobatics or competitive flights,”* Sean Clarke explained. The audience asked about the aerobatic manoeuvres (humpty-bump, hammerhead, snap, etc.) and then took part in a demonstration which lasted about an hour: Sean Clarke piloted a Cessna aircraft manufactured by ‘American Champion Aircraft’.



<sup>19</sup>See <http://camiguinaviation.com/> - Numerous films are available on the website of ‘Camiguin Aviation’.



### Thursday afternoon

In the afternoon, we met with representatives of the voluntary sector of the 24 barangays of Binalonan: associations of farmers, families, teachers, etc. After the customary presentations, we heard the different associations<sup>20</sup> and asked them questions.

We learnt about their different activities. Some of them are very resourceful, such as the farmer's association which produces rice and maize-based products and sells them on public transport (bus, jeepneys, etc.).



In the same vein, the Mayor indicated that the commercialisation of locally-made products was one of their current priorities: the aim is to multiply the opportunities for selling. The farmers are also at

<sup>20</sup>A list of the associations we met are in the appendix.

the mercy of meteorological problems: an entire harvest can be wiped out in a few hours if a typhoon strikes the region just before harvesting.

The associations are looking for micro-financing and support for their projects in order to improve them.



Saint-Josse-ten-Noode offered to collect the financial resources through different activities in Belgium which would be organised by the Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity in partnership with the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode municipality. The Saint-Josse-ten-Noode municipality therefore offered to draft a call for projects which would be approved by the Binalonan municipality and distrib-

uted to all the associations of the municipality. These associations will be able to respond and the projects will be selected by the Binalonan authorities, the Advisory Committee for North-South Solidarity and the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode municipality.

We spent the rest of the afternoon taking part in a 'Street Dancing Competition' with the children from the different schools of the municipality.



### Thursday evening

On the Thursday evening, a gala evening was organised: the mobile-stores were officially inaugurated and blessed. The Mayor, the Rt. Hon. **Ramon V. Guico III**, Alderman Mr Jassin, the President of the Council, **Melicio Flores Patague II** and Advisor and Deputy Head of the Belgian mission to the Philippines, Mr **Xavier Leblanc**, each gave a speech<sup>21</sup>.

All the Barangays, the representatives of the associations and the entire municipal council were present, as well as the Advisor Mr Xavier Leblanc. Dances were performed all throughout the evening, and there was an official ball.

<sup>21</sup>See the speech of Alderman Mr Jassin in the appendix.

Our entire delegation also made a contribution as we were invited to perform in public: we chose to sing the Belgian national anthem and 'la Vie en Rose' by Edith Piaf.



## 4.8 Pangasinan Province, Lingayen – San Roque Dam

### Description

Date	Friday 19 February 2016
Activities	Lingayen, Pangansinan: Provincial Capitol Building – Urduja House / San Roque Dam / End of the visit to Binalonan
Other relevant features	'Coastal tourism' – Electric industry

### Review of the visit

#### Friday morning



On Friday, we went to **Lingayen**, to the west of Binalonan, on the coast, between the Gulf of the same name and the South China Sea. It is the capital of the Pangasinan province and there we found the residence and office of the Governor of the province<sup>22</sup>, **the Rt. Hon. Amado T. Espino Jr.** Necie Lucero, who is the secretary general of the '**Confederation of Democratic Workers of the Philippines**' (CDWP), accompanied us on our visit to the Governor, and introduced each member of the delegation.

Pangasinan province is situated in the north-west of the Philippines. It includes 6 districts and 44 municipalities. An essentially agricultural province, it produces mangos which are said to be the sweetest in the world, has a fishing industry and breeds livestock including the famous 'horned cattle'. It is also a region undergoing rapid tourism development. The province describes itself as '*The best place to invest, work, live and raise a family*'<sup>23</sup>. Their slogan: '*To make Pangasinan the number 1!*'



The provincial budget has been increased. The provincial organisation is certified ISO 9001. We watched a presentation on the province and its best practice, notably in the fields of local management and in programmes to reduce poverty. The province also has 14 provincial hospitals and has developed a health insurance system.

On an environmental level, the Pangasinan province is famous for its **mangroves**.

<sup>22</sup>See <http://pangasinan.gov.ph/>

<sup>23</sup>Traduction : « le meilleur endroit pour investir, travailler, vivre et fonder une famille ».

The mangrove forests are essential habitats for the incubation of marine species (fish and crustaceans), for the nesting of migratory birds, for insects and also for the protection of the coastline. They also serve as a barrier along the coast during storms and typhoons. They allow the effects of climate change to be mitigated and are a source of livelihood for aqua- and silviculture, the production of vinegar, tourism, etc.

The mangrove forests have deteriorated over the last 40 years to the extent that they are now only half the size: this is due to tree cutting, natural deterioration due to typhoons, sedimentation, excessive algae growth, etc.

They are therefore now subject to a programme of reforestation by the Pangasinan province. The province also organises clean-up operations in the rivers and their banks.

We visited the '**Pangasinan Provincial Capitol Building**' including the Governor's office, the Council hall, rooms, etc. It is a neo-classical style building inaugurated in 1918 and rebuilt in 1949 after having been seriously damaged during the Second World War, following American bombing in the Gulf of Lingayen. At the time, the Philippines were occupied by Japanese troops: the Americans intervened to liberate the country. It is one of the architectural treasures of the country.

The visit continued in the official residence of the Governor which was just opposite the Capitol. This building, called '**Urduja House**' in honour of the princess of the same name, was built in 1953.

We were able to admire a painting by the painter **Antonio Gonzales Dumlao** (1912-1983) representing **Princess Urduja**. This legendary warrior, kind of Amazonian, is a heroine for the inhabitants of the entire province.

History relates that it was a woman who lived during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the sovereign of the dynastic kingdom of Tawalesi in Pangasinan.

We also went to the **Sison Auditorium** in Lingayen. Also in the neo-classical style, it was built from 1926 to 1927 and was renovated under the supervision of the current Governor. Following major restoration work in 2010, it became the Cultural Centre for the Region of Ilocos: conventions, shows and other events are organised there.

### Friday afternoon

#### **San Roque Dam**<sup>24</sup>

The **San Roque** dam, situated in Pangasinan province (on the Isle of Luzon), is a compacted embankment dam (40 million m<sup>3</sup>), the largest in the Philippines and the 16<sup>th</sup> largest in the world. With a total surface area of 12.8 square kilometres, it is situated on the river **Agno** and extends northwards.



The **river Agno** is the third largest river in the Philippines. 221 kilometres long, it has a drainage basin on the project site which is 1.225 square kilometres in total. Its source is in the mountains of the Cordillera, to the north, from where it irrigates the flat central plains of Luzon (more than 34,000 hectares) continuing to the west, through the provinces of Pangasinan and Tarlac, before flowing into the Gulf of Lingayen.

This work of art, like all dams, is constructed over the breadth of the river and

<sup>24</sup>See SRPC Philippines, San Roque Multipurpose Project, Information brochure.

Official internet site <http://sanroquepower.ph/>. A film presenting the whole project is available.

See also: <http://www.napocor.gov.ph/NPCDams/index.php/our-dams/san-roque-dam> -- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San\\_Roque\\_Dam\\_%28Philippines%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Roque_Dam_%28Philippines%29) - [http://electroind.com/pdf/Case\\_Studies/SanRoqueCaseStudy1.pdf](http://electroind.com/pdf/Case_Studies/SanRoqueCaseStudy1.pdf)

is intended to regulate its flow – especially during the rainy season – and to store water to keep floods in check. During each rainy season, the run-off is stored (120 million m<sup>3</sup>) via water turbines which are used to produce hydroelectric energy and irrigate crops, which is very advantageous for agriculture.

It also serves to improve the quality of the water by retaining the sediment which is carried down by the run-off water during typhoons, as well as residue produced by unregulated small-scale mining activities upstream.

Its reservoir has an active storage capacity of 525 million m<sup>3</sup> and supplies the hydroelectric power station. The **San Roque Hydro Electric Power Plant** (SRHEPP) produces around 1,000 GWH/year (for a total capacity of 411 MW).

The project is essentially a social one. Their slogan, ‘ *The power to energize lives*<sup>25</sup>, encapsulates this philosophy. It improves the lives of thousands of Filipinos in 16 towns situated in the province of Pangasinan, specifically those who had to be relocated during construction of the project.

### Friday evening

On the Friday evening, we met the Mayor again for a meeting to end the mission. Alderman Mr Jassin received a flag of Binalonan.



We were then invited again to the Binalonan Town Fiesta 2016, which was dedicated to education on that particular evening.

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<sup>25</sup>Traduction : « le pouvoir de dynamiser la/les vie/s ».

## 5 End of the mission to the Philippines - Bangkok

### 5.1 Manila – Bangkok, Thailand

#### Description

Date	Saturday and Sunday 20 & 21 February 2016
Activities	Departure from Binalonan – Visit to the projects of the Pangasinense Association of Belgium – Return to Manila – Departure for Bangkok, Thailand – Official dinner with the Belgian embassy in Bangkok.
Other relevant features	

#### Review of the visit

##### Saturday

On the Saturday, it was already time to say goodbye to our hosts. We left them with a sense of gratitude and emotion.



On the journey back, we visited different projects implemented by the ‘**Pangasinense Association of Belgium**’ whose main mission is as a fund-raiser for the benefit of victims of natural disasters as well as providing ad hoc assistance such as the construction of bus shelters (which we visited), village roads, or school equipment. It is the association which benefited from the fund-raiser organised by the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode municipality during the Gospel concert.

We were also received by the President of the Association, Mr **Nilo Gapasin**, who is residing in the Philippines for the time being.

After a journey of six hours, we arrived back at Manila where we stayed again for one night.

##### Sunday

On the Sunday, we travelled to Manila airport to catch the flight to Bangkok, in Thailand, where we had to stop to catch our corresponding flight back to Belgium.

We stayed in the ‘Baan Pathumwan’ district.

In the evening, the Belgian delegation organised a ‘Belgian Dinner’. The invited guests included the Vice-Consul of the Belgian embassy in Bangkok, Mr **Laurent Frédérickx**.





## 5.2 Belgian embassy in Bangkok – Jim Thompson’s house

### Description

Date	Monday 22 February 2016
Activities	Visit to the Belgian embassy in Bangkok – Jim Thompson’s house – Return to Belgium
Other relevant features	Functioning of the Belgian representations abroad – Silk industry

### Review of the visit

#### Monday morning



On the Monday morning, which was a bank holiday in Thailand, and in stifling heat, we visited the Belgian embassy in Bangkok<sup>26</sup> where we were received by the Premier Advisor, Mr **Nicolas Nihon** and the Vice-Consul, Mr **Laurent Frédéricckx**.

They showed us around the premises and we were warmly received.

They explained the different Belgian diplomatic relations in South-East Asia as well as the functioning of an embassy.

In South-East Asia, Belgium has an embassy in Thailand, in Bangkok, as well as three other representations under the guise of Honorary consulates: one at Lam-pang (Myanmar, or Birma), one at Phnom Penh (Cambodia) and one at Vientiane (Laos).



#### Embassies, general consulates and honorary consulates<sup>27</sup>

The FPS Foreign Affairs has a network of **six types of Belgian representations**, more or less all around the world: embassies, general and career consulates, honorary consulates, permanent representations<sup>28</sup> and offices for development cooperation.

Ambassadors represent the King in the host country.

The **embassies** are situated in the capitals of the countries where they exercise their jurisdiction. They maintain *diplomatic competence* by ensuring political and diplomatic links between Belgium and the host country but also *administrative* links via their public service function for Belgians abroad,<sup>29</sup> and *economic* links.

<sup>26</sup>See <http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/thailande/>

<sup>27</sup>See especially [http://www.belgium.be/fr/la\\_belgique/la\\_belgique\\_internationale/la\\_belgique\\_dans\\_le\\_monde/ambassades\\_et\\_consulats](http://www.belgium.be/fr/la_belgique/la_belgique_internationale/la_belgique_dans_le_monde/ambassades_et_consulats) - <http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/thailande/> - <http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/philippines/>

<sup>28</sup>Permanent representations with international institutions such as the UN, NATO, UNESCO, etc.

<sup>29</sup>The administrative competences of embassies: civil status (issuing of death certificates, *laisser-passer* for a corpse, repatriation of a corpse, etc.), legalisation competence, notarial competence, assistance to Belgians in distress (in cases of crisis, accident, disappearance, natural disaster, etc.), issuing of visas for non-Belgian nationals. In terms of tourism, there are 100,000 Belgian arrivals/departures to and from Thailand every year. In the event of natural disaster, if more than 7 Belgians are involved, the Crisis Centre is activated in Belgium by telephone. Every embassy also has an ‘Emergency plan’.

Diplomatic relations between States, the immunity of diplomatic staff and the inviolability of embassies are defined in the ‘*Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations*’ of 1961. This was completed in 1963 by the ‘*Vienna Convention on Consular Relations*’.

The **general consulates** do not have any political competence in general: they ‘manage’ the Belgian community in the jurisdiction and are naturally more numerous in countries where this community is substantial. They provide assistance to Belgians in a broad sense, more specifically in the event of accidents or arrest in the host country<sup>30</sup>.

The **honorary consulates** have more limited competences than those of the embassies or general consulates. The honorary consuls are generally recruited from the local population<sup>31</sup> and selected for their privileged relationships with the latter, with both political and economic power. They rarely have Belgian nationality and do not always speak the national languages. They perform their duties *ex gratia*.

### **Diplomatic relations in South East Asia**

A constitutional monarchy reigns in **Thailand**. The king is not only very old but he is also the longest serving monarch in the world. He ascended the throne at the same time as King Baudouin.

Economic **growth in Thailand** is between 2% and 3% per year. Thailand broke all tourism records in 2014 with 39 million tourists! Tourism represents 10% of GDP.

At the Belgian embassy in Bangkok, the regional attachés conduct ‘Business to Business’ and look for opportunities for Belgian investors.

Flanders would like to develop relations with Myanmar<sup>32</sup> (Birma) and is currently looking for an honorary Consul.

The **development cooperation** is a real challenge for the whole South East Asian region. There are a few Belgian NGOs in Laos and Cambodia. The funds invested in cooperation are only small: the allocated budget<sup>33</sup> essentially serves to carry out ‘peace-building’ initiatives and ‘preventive diplomacy’.

Belgium is currently developing relations with **Myanmar** for this purpose<sup>34</sup>. Until 2010, before the establishment of the military dictatorship, the country enjoyed buoyant growth. The military holds 25% of the seats in the Parliament and retains two important ministries, that of Defence and the Interior. Since 2012<sup>35</sup>, the action of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, has become much more important. During the elections of 2015, her party obtained an absolute majority in the Parliament. Today, the country is opening up and offers interesting opportunities for exporters with its economic growth of 8% per year.

The **political reporting** constitutes the most important part of the work of the Belgian embassy.

**Culture** represents the last field of action of Belgian diplomacy, essentially through the promotion of Belgian artists, but the scope of intervention is rather limited since there is no representation of the Communities in Thailand.

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<sup>30</sup>Currently, 9 people are imprisoned under the jurisdiction which includes Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. Arrests may take place if someone has overstayed their entry visa for example, or for crimes and offences (forgery, illegal exercise of certain functions, paedophilia, drugs, assassination attempts, etc.). In these cases, the embassy will ask the imprisoned person if they would like the assistance of the embassy to notify their family, check on their conditions of detention, provide a lawyer, guarantee the right to a defence during the process, etc.

<sup>31</sup>It is often business leaders or relay persons who have a local network of important relations.

<sup>32</sup>The honorary consulate is vacant in Myanmar at the moment.

<sup>33</sup>It amounts to 5 million euros per year for the whole world, which isn’t much.

<sup>34</sup>The peace-building activities include supporting the free press, developing the capacity of a State in which administration has crumbled, through technical assistance and by involving the militias in the process.

<sup>35</sup>Aung San Suu Kyi was elected in 2012 and obtained her first official mandate as a deputy. Her party is the ‘National League for Democracy’ (NLD). She is an iconic figure for non-violent opposition to the military dictatorship in her country.

### Monday afternoon

In the afternoon, we visited **Jim Thompson's house** in the 'Baan Pathumwan' district in Bangkok. This house, famous for its traditional Thai architecture, was built in the 1950s by Jim Thompson, an American businessman and adventurer.

Its excellent preserved state makes it a rarity.

Born at the beginning of the last century, Jim Thompson enlisted in the U.S Army in 1941 and discovered Thailand during the Second World War. After the war, he injected new life into the former Thai **silk industry**, which was then in decline, so much so that by the 1960s, the 'Thai Silk Company' employed 2,000 weavers. His other passion was **collecting Asian artwork**: his house in Bangkok was intended to serve as repository for all the marvellous artefacts which he had accumulated over the years. He disappeared mysteriously in 1967.

Monday evening

On the Monday evening, the Belgian delegation caught the plane back to Belgium.

## 6

### 6 Conclusion

Our mission to the Philippines was intensive, rewarding and productive since our hosts wanted us to discover their municipality, their region and their country.

We got to know our partner, Binalonan, its inhabitants, its institutions, its associations and its political and administrative leaders. Our meetings were on a very human level and were full of empathy.

The entire delegation could verify the very significant progress of the projects which Binalonan and Saint-Josse-ten-Noode jointly undertake in the Philippines and were reassured that they were on the right track for achieving them. The first stage of our cooperation programme, which will continue for five years, has been achieved, but other challenges in terms of providing mobile-stores or training still need to be met. But we are confident in the abilities of our partners to overcome these challenges.

For most of us, we discovered a country in full development which we didn't know existed, blessed with immense natural and cultural resources, open to others and the rest of the world.

We met inventive, hard-working people who were bustling with a rare willingness, courage and enthusiasm. It was probably the meetings with the people of the Philippines which most touched us, inspired us and made us cry. Brassai, the journalist and photographer, once said "*We sometimes wonder if life has a purpose... and then we meet people who give a purpose to life.*" This was one of the things we learned from our mission.

As we mentioned in the conclusion of our report in 2015, this project is rewarding for both sides: for Binalonan who benefits from our expertise in the context of a programme which it chose according to its needs ; as for Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, our municipality takes the same view as Mahatma Gandhi "*Be the change that you want to see in the world*". This is why we are mobilising, taking action, and getting informed because the essence of our initiative is to forge a better world based on the equitable sharing of wealth between the North and South.

## 7 Appendices

### 7.1 Visit programme

Date	Day	Time	ACTIVITY	CONTENT	LOCATION
February 13, 2016	Saturday		Pick-up from Jen Hotel		Manila
February 14, 2016	Sunday	8:00 AM	Shrine of our Lady of Manaoag	Pilgrimage Tourism / History of Binalonan	Manaoag, Pangasinan
		10:00 AM	Sto. Niño Parish Church	History of Binalonan	Binalonan, Pangasinan
		10:30 AM	Bin-nalanan Monument	History of Binalonan	Auditorium Gate
			Leadership Tagline & Core Values	History of Binalonan	Municipal Hall Entrance
			LGUECONOMIC ENTERPRISE I		
			Tennis Center	Sports Tourism	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
			Gymnasium	Event Tourism	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
			TPLEX	Access, tourism and potential hazard	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
February 15, 2016	Monday	8:00 AM	FLAG CEREMONY	Administrative Functions	Municipal Hall Ground
		8:30 AM	COURTESY CALL to Mayor	Political Leadership	Municipal Hall
		10:00 AM	COURTESY CALL to Sangguniang Bayan	Political Leadership	Municipal Hall
			Citizen Charter	Administrative Functions	
		1:00 PM	LGUECONOMIC ENTERPRISE II		
			University of Eastern Pangasinan	1 Professional in very household	Canarvacanan, Binalonan, Pangasinan
			Cultural Welcome Party		
			Binalonan Museum	Illustrious Personalities	
			Public Market	Trading activities	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
			Savemore	Trading activities	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
			Livelihood Center	Food Processing	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
			Solidwaste Management	Composting	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
February 16, 2016	Tuesday	AM	Batanes	Eco Tourism	Province of Batanes
February 17, 2016	Wednesday	AM-PM	Batanes		
February 18, 2016	Thursday	AM	BARANGAY CANARVACAMAN	Barangay Government	Canarvacanan, Binalonan, Pangasinan
				Executive, Legislative, Judicial Function	
				Barangay Assembly	
				Barangay Justice System	
		PM	Street Dance	Fiesta Competition Activity	Poblacion, Binalonan, Pangasinan
		Evening	Community Night of Culture	With all municipal and barangay officials and employees with representatives of civil society organizations	Municipal Auditorium
				Inauguration of San Josse-Ten-Noode and Binalonan Cooperation	
				Awarding of Kasanayang Galing sa Barangay	
				Launching of Kasanayang Galing ng CSO	
February 19, 2016	Friday	AM	Province of Pangasinan	Provincial Govt. / Coastal Tourism	Lingayen, Pangasinan
		PM	San Roque Dam	Electric Power, Irrigation & potential hazard	San Manuel, Pangasinan
February 20, 2016		AM	Return to Manila		

## **7.2 People we met:**

Mr **Ramon V. Guico III**, Municipal Mayor of Binalonan

Mrs **Élisabeth Aquino**, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator.

Mr **Amado T. Espino Jr.**, Governor of Pangasinan province, the Philippines

Mr **Laurent Frédérickx**, Vice-Consul at the Belgian embassy in Bangkok (Thailand).

Mrs **Delphina Gacula**, Professor at the WCC Aeronautical & Technological College.

Mr **Nilo Gapasin**, President of the Pangasinense Association of Belgium.

Mr **Xavier Leblanc**, Advisor and Deputy Head of the Belgian mission to the Philippines,

Mrs **Necie Lucero**. Secretary General of the Confederation of Democratic Workers of the Philippines (CDWP).

Mr **Nicolas Nihon** Premier Advisor at the Belgian embassy in Bangkok (Thailand)

Mr **Melicio Flores Patagay I**, Municipal Vice Mayor of Binalonan

Mr **Norman V. Ramos**, Municipal Local Government Operations Officer.

Mr **Alberto M. Espiritu**, Municipal Advisor at Binalonan

Mrs **Josephine D. Caburnay**, Municipal Advisor at Binalonan

Mr **Carl Joseph A. Patawaran**, Municipal Advisor at Binalonan

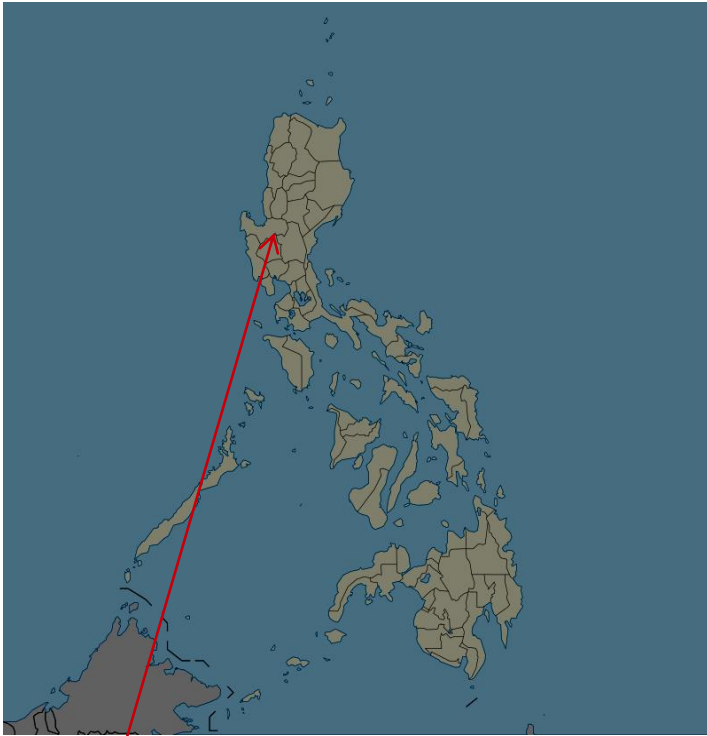
Mr **Noel Apolinario O. Bautista**, Municipal Advisor at Binalonan

Mr **Ryan G. Gotoc**, Municipal Advisor at Binalonan

Mr **Bonifaction G. Calip**, Municipal Advisor at Binalonan

Mr **Cesar A. Tomeldan**, Municipal Advisor at Binalonan

### 7.3 Binalonan Identity Card, Pangasinan, Philippines<sup>36</sup>



**Pangasinan province**



***Political and administrative data***

Official name: Binalonan, Republic of the Philippines

Mayor : Ramon V. Guico III

Deputy Mayor: Melicio Flores Patague II

Province: Pangasinan

District: 5<sup>th</sup> district of the Pangasinan province

Classification: 1<sup>st</sup> class municipality – partially urbanised

Founded: 1872

Number of Barangays: 24

- Balangobong
- Bued
- Bugayong
- Camangaan
- Canarvacanan
- Capas
- Cili
- Dumayat
- Linmansangan
- Mangcasuy
- Moreno
- Pasileng Norte
- Pasileng Sur
- Poblacion
- San Felipe Central

<sup>36</sup> Source: France-diplomatie - 2013

**SJTN– Philippines Mission Report – February 2016**

- San Felipe Sur
- San Pablo
- Santa Catalina
- Santa Maria Norte
- Santiago
- Santo Niño
- Sumabnit
- Tabuyoc
- Vacante

***Geographic and demographic data***

Region: Ilocos

Situation: 59 km from Lingayen (capital of the Pangasinan province) and 200 km from Manila

Area: 47.57 km<sup>2</sup>

Agricultural area: 8,400 hectares (84 km)

Timezone: GMT +8

Population: 52,832 inhabitants (2010)

Density: 1,100 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>

Website: <http://www.binalonan.gov.ph/>

## 7.4 Cooperation protocol with the Philippines



### COOPERATION PROTOCOL BETWEEN

### THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAINT-JOSSE-TEN-NOODE AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF BINALONAN

Considering that the municipality of Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode, after deliberation of the municipal council on the 28/01/2013, is willing to work actively in the field of development cooperation, more specifically in municipal cooperation development,

Considering that these relations can only be enhanced by a responsible partnership between both municipalities,

#### THE FOLLOWING WAS AGREED

#### BETWEEN

The municipality of Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode, here represented by its College of Mayor and Aldermen, on whose behalf Mr. Emir Kir, Mayor, acts, under the condition precedent of the approval of this protocol by the municipal council

#### AND

The municipality of Binalonan here represented by Sir Ramon V. Guico III the honorable Mayor,

#### Article 1. Principles

The partners undertake to enhance all the principles mentioned below, provided under appendix 1 of this protocol, in the development as well as in the execution of their cooperation actions:

- Equality, solidarity, reciprocity, subsidiarity;
- Wariness, prevention, reversibility;
- Partnership, participation, training, transversality, connection between places and generations;
- Transparency, information, evaluation, capitalization.

#### Article 2. Purposes

The purpose of this protocol is the collaboration on the enhancement of the local level, which is based on **three inseparable pillars**:

- a good political government;
- an efficient administration;
- civil participation in the decision making process.

### DEFINITION OF THE COOPERATION PRINCIPLES

#### UNDERLYING THE DEVELOPMENT AND

#### THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROTOCOL

##### 1. PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

###### Equality, solidarity, reciprocity, subsidiarity

**Equality:** decentralized cooperation links partners with the same rights, duties and responsibilities, despite possible political, social, cultural, civil, religious and environmental differences.

**Solidarity:** taking into account the connection between places and generations, partners must jointly analyse the needs of the concerned territories and, based on collective resources and consultation, work out development strategies and models to improve the lives of as many inhabitants as possible.

**Reciprocity:** decentralised cooperation is based on a logical division and includes more than traditional humanitarian aid or the provision of financial resources. The valuation of the involved parties, their knowledge and their skill serves as a basis for this principle, that is supported by the belief that the partnership should be mutually justified, and that the specificities of each partner are a source of enrichment for the other.

**Subsidiarity:** the local authorities play a prominent role in the implementation of this principle. In order to answer to the needs of the population in the most convenient and direct way, and hereby increase the involvement of local parties in the development of their territory, the cooperation will, while respecting the requirements of the relevant authorities, contribute to the establishment of autonomous and democratic local governments, but also to the installation of systems for local participatory governance.

##### 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

###### Wariness, prevention, reversibility

For each decentralized cooperation project a joint diagnosis must be drawn in advance with an estimate of the direct and indirect social, economic, cultural and environmental influences on short, medium and long term of the planned actions. Based on this diagnosis can be quite rightly decided to elaborate the project, to apply any modifications or rejection of the project or to develop another project. Moreover, based on a joint estimation that must be performed before the development of the project, potential negative effects can be prevented, limited, managed or avoided. Depending on the set objectives, it is necessary to take into consideration alternative solutions and to ensure the reversibility of the choices. These principles are beyond recovery.

#### Article 3. Fields of action

The partners undertake to join forces in one or more of the following primary areas of action: The purpose is to take social actions in a transversal way, meaning that they can at the same time relate to economy, culture, sports etc.

#### Article 4. Action plans

Every year a joint action plan is drafted after consultation to achieve the objectives of this (these) action area (s) in the field of municipal cooperation development. The program of intervention should be included in the specific convention linked the both municipalities partnership.

For the municipality of Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode  
Par ordonnance :  
Le Secrétaire communal,  
Patrick Neve

Le Collège des  
Bourgmestre et Echevins,  
Emir Kir

For the municipality...  
The Honorable Mayor  
Ramon V. Guico III

Brussels, 22.06.2015

#### Partnership, participation, training, transversality, connection in place and time

**Partnership:** for each collaboration project an appeal must be done to all the involved parties from the local authorities (economic and social parties, associations, institutions), which should be involved from the development to the implementation of the project. Moreover, the implementation of the partnership principle must enhance the consultation, the complementarity and the coherence of the initiatives of the involved parties at the various levels (local, regional, national, European and international).

**Participation:** decentralized cooperation implies a territorial cooperation involving all present parties. By also involving the population, the factors that may play a role in the cooperation, can be better aligned and an international citizenship can be built. Each cooperation project enhances the partnership and the active participation of the territorial involved parties, of the local population, of the users and the consumers in the elaboration and evaluation of the choices and programs.

**Training:** the training of the parties of the involved territories is absolutely necessary so that everyone understands what the stake is and that they can actively and knowingly participate in the elaboration of projects. The course should observe the characteristics of the territories and of the involved parties.

**Transversality:** every decentralized cooperation project has to take into account, from the development of the project, the economic, social, cultural and environmental endeavours of the territories. Therefore it is important to involve all officers and departments of the local authorities in the projects and to try to bring coherence to the initiatives of all involved parties.

**Connection in place and time:** each cooperation action should take into account the potential impact on other territorial levels as well as their regulation. Likewise, the consequences of these actions in the short, medium and long term should be estimated.

##### 3. FOLLOW-UP OF THE PARTNERSHIP

###### Transparency, information, evaluation, capitalization

**Transparency:** the roles and responsibilities of each partner must be clearly defined. All parties of the local authorities should be able to have access to information about every aspect of the partnership and the projects.

**Information:** the inhabitants of the cooperating local authorities must be informed of the actions taken and to be involved in the implementation. A neutral communication and information system that is accessible to everyone must be established and, within the framework of this cooperation, is accompanied by a training program on the use of development.

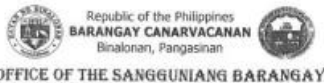


**Evaluation:** in decentralized cooperation, ongoing evaluation of the partnership and the relevance of the projects is essential. From the development of the project the necessary tools should be provided for the development of an evaluation process in which each partner and each interested party has equal voting rights and right of control.

**Capitalization:** the partners of the project are to set themselves the task that what they experience from their collaboration is being capitalized, appreciated and used by any person involved in the decentralized cooperation. The result of this capitalization must be distributed within the local authorities concerned and must be applied on a larger scale with the active involvement of local authorities in the field of international cooperation.

In addition to the above, certain principles should give concrete form to the development by the achievement of the set objectives through international declarations, conventions and protocols that have been approved by the government, such as the Millennium Development Goals.

## 7.5 'Ecological Solid Waste management Ordinance of Barangay Canarvacanan'



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY

ORDINANCE NO. 01  
Series of 2016

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OF BARANGAY CANARVACANAN, BINALONAN, PANGASINAN, AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF**

Introduced by Brgy. Kgd. Virginia C. Desamito and Brgy. Kgd. Venerio B. Parngit.

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Barangay of Canarvacanan, Binalonan, Pangasinan in a session assembled that:

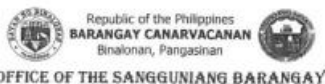
**Article 1  
General Provisions**

**Section 1. Title** – This ordinance shall be known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Ordinance of Barangay Canarvacanan"

**Section 2. Declaration of Policies** – It is hereby declared the policy of Barangay Canarvacanan to adopt and implement a comprehensive, integrated and ecological solid waste management program that shall:

- Ensure the protection of public health and environment;
- Ensure the proper segregation, collection, transport, storage, treatment and disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adoption of the best environmental practices in ecological waste management;
- Encourage greater private sector participation in solid waste management; and
- Promote development programs for improved ecological solid waste management.

**Section 3. COVERAGE** – This ordinance is enacted to provide the systematic procedures in handling solid waste in the barangay and shall apply to all individual residential houses or households and commercial establishments such as canteens, stores, restaurants, public and private markets.

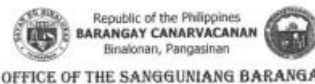


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**Article 2  
Definition of Terms**

**Section 4. Definition of Terms** - For the purpose of this Ordinance

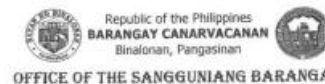
1. **Agricultural Waste** shall refer to waste generated from planting or harvesting of crops, trimming or pruning of plants and wastes or run-off materials from farms or fields;
2. **Biodegradable** shall refer to any material that can be reduced into finer particles (degraded or decomposed) by microbiological organisms or enzymes (synonymous with compostable);
3. **Bulky Wastes** shall refer to waste materials that cannot be appropriately placed in separate containers because of either its bulky size, shape or other physical attributes. These include large worn-out or broken household, commercial, and industrial items such as furniture, lamps, bookcases, filing cabinets, and other similar items;
4. **Collection** shall refer to the act of removing solid waste from the source or from a communal storage point;
5. **Compost** decayed organic material for use as soil conditioner or fertilizer;
6. **Composting** shall refer to the controlled decomposition of organic matter by micro-organisms, mainly bacteria and fungi, into a humus-like product;
7. **Disposal** shall refer to the discharge, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking or placing of any solid waste into or in any land;
8. **Disposal Site** shall refer to a site where solid waste is finally discharged and deposited;
9. **Ecological Solid Waste Management** shall refer to the systematic administration of activities which provide for segregation at source, segregated transportation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste and all other waste management activities which do not harm the environment;
10. **Hazardous Waste** shall refer to solid waste or combination of solid waste which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics may:
  - a) Cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or



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11. **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)** includes a solid waste transfer station or sorting station, drop-off center, a composting facility, and a recycling facility;
12. **Open Dump** shall refer to a disposal area wherein the solid wastes are indiscriminately thrown or disposed of without due planning and consideration for environmental and health standards;
13. **Person(s)** shall refer to any being, natural or juridical, susceptible of rights and obligations, or of being the subject of legal relations;
14. **Receptacles** shall refer to individual containers used for the source segregation and the collection of recyclable materials;
15. **Recyclable Material** shall refer to any waste material retrieved from the waste stream and free from contamination that can still be converted into suitable beneficial use or for other purposes, including, but not limited to, newspaper, ferrous scrap metal, non-ferrous scrap metal, used oil, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, glass, office paper, tin cans and other materials as may be determined by the Commission;
16. **Recycling** shall refer to the treating of used or waste materials through a process of making them suitable for beneficial use and for other purposes, and includes any process by which solid waste materials are transformed into new products in such a manner that the original products may lose their identity, and which may be used as raw materials for the production of other goods or services; *Provided*, That the collection, segregation and re-use of previously used packaging material shall be deemed recycling under this Act;
17. **Residual Waste** shall refer to any non-recyclable and non-biodegradable wastes of no use resulting from waste sorting and segregation;
18. **Re-use** shall refer to the process of recovering materials intended for the same or different purpose without the alteration of physical and chemical characteristics;
19. **Segregation** shall refer to a solid waste management practice of separating different materials found in solid waste in order to promote recycling and re-use of resources and to reduce the volume for collection and disposal;
20. **Solid Waste** shall refer to all discarded household, commercial waste, non-hazardous institutional and industrial waste, street sweepings, construction debris, agriculture waste, and other non-hazardous/non-toxic solid waste.

Unless specifically noted otherwise, the term "solid waste" as used in this Ordinance shall not include:



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illness, or acute/chronic effect on the health of persons and other organisms;

- Infectious waste from hospitals such as equipment, instruments, utensils, and fomites of a disposable nature from patients who are suspected to have or have been diagnosed as having communicable diseases and must therefore be isolated as required by public health agencies, laboratory wastes such as pathological specimens (i.e., all tissues, specimens of blood elements, excreta, and secretions obtained from patients or laboratory animals), and disposable fomites that may harbor or transmit pathogenic organisms, and surgical operating room pathologic specimens and disposable fomites attendant thereto, and similar disposable materials from outpatient areas and emergency rooms; and
  - waste resulting from mining activities, including contaminated soil and debris.
21. **Solid Waste Management (SWM)** shall refer to the discipline associated with the control of generation, storage, collection, transfer and transport, processing, and disposal of solid wastes in a manner that is in accord with the best principles of public health, economics, engineering, conservation, aesthetics, and other environmental considerations, and that is also responsive to public attitudes;
  22. **Special Wastes** shall refer to household hazardous wastes such as paints, thinners, household batteries, lead-acid batteries, spray canisters and the like. These include wastes from residential and commercial sources that comprise of bulky wastes, consumer electronics, and white goods, yard wastes that are collected separately, batteries, oil, and tires. These wastes are usually handled separately from other residential and commercial wastes;

**Article 3  
SEGREGATION OF SOLID WASTE**

**Section 5. Mandatory Segregation (at source of Solid Waste)** - The segregation of waste shall be mandatory primarily to all households, institutional source, industrial source, commercial source, and agricultural source.

**Section 6. Categories of Solid Waste**– Solid waste shall be segregated in to the following categories; *Biodegradable Waste, Recyclable Waste, Residual Waste, and Special Waste.*

**Article 4**  
**Solid Waste Management Fees**

- Section 7. Imposing of Fees** – There is hereby imposed a solid waste management fee for solid waste management services provided by the barangay in accordance with the schedule contained hereunder. The fees collected shall form part of the Barangay Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.
- Section 8. Coverage** – The solid waste management fees imposed herein shall be collected from all sources and generators solid waste covered by Solid Waste Management services provided by barangay.
- Section 9. Fees for Institutions and Business Establishments** – Institutions and Business Establishments will be charged a fee of Php 50.00 - 100.00 per schedule of waste hauling.
- Section 10. Fees for Households/Residential Houses, Small and Medium Enterprises** – Households, small and medium enterprises will be charged a fee of Php 10.00 - 20.00 per schedule of waste hauling.

**Article 5**  
**Establishment of Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)**

- Section 11. Barangay MRF** – In addition to Municipal MRF, Barangay Canarvacanan shall establish its own Barangay Material Recovery Facility.
- Section 12. Income** – The income generated from the operation of the Barangay MRF shall accrue to and from part of Barangay Solid Waste Management Fund.

**Article 6**  
**Community Involvement**

- Section 13. Public Notification** – The constituents of the barangay shall be regularly informed of the acts performed and activities undertaken in connection with the implementation of Solid Waste Management Plan of the barangay council or BSWMC. For this purpose, notices of such acts and activities shall be posted regularly in Barangay Bulletin Board and on other conspicuous public places. The BSWMC shall be responsible for the posting of the above information.

**Article 7**  
**Collection and Transport**

- Section 14. Guidelines** – The collection and transport of solid waste shall be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines and mechanisms prescribed in the minimum requirements provided in RA 9003. The information on collection of solid waste such as the schedule, types of waste to be collected and other relevant information shall be disseminated by the BSWMC to the general public.
- Section 15. Non-Collection Of Unsegregated Solid Waste** – Only segregated wastes and only the types of wastes that are scheduled for collection on a particular day and time shall be collected.

**Article 8**  
**Prohibitions and Penalties**

- Section 16. Prohibited Acts** – This ordinance and in accordance with the provisions of R.A 9003, the following acts are prohibited:
- Littering, throwing, dumping of waste matters in the public places, such as, but not limited to roads, sidewalks, streets, alleys, canals, creeks, esteros, vacant lots, establishments, and or in any public places;
  - Non-segregation of solid waste;
  - The taking out of waste on a day not scheduled for collection shall be prohibited. Solid waste for collection shall be brought out from households, institutions, and commercial establishments and other sources properly placed in sacks or garbage bags during the collection schedule only. In case garbage could not be collected, it should be brought inside to await for the collection;
  - Dirty and messy vicinity of residential houses and commercial establishments along public thoroughfares is strictly prohibited. The lobby fronting sidewalks and immediate ground of commercial establishments shall be maintained clean and orderly at all times. Provision of collection bin for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste shall be strictly implemented for food outlets like carinderia, canteens, but not limited to billiard halls, computer shops, sari-sari stores, and talipapa, etc.;

- Section 17. Violations Of R.A. 9003** – All violations of Republic Act 9003 shall be prosecuted and penalized under and in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9003.

- Section 18. Fines And Penalties** – The following fines and penalties shall be imposed for violation of this Ordinance:

**In The Case Of Households:**

- First Offense:* Community Service of Two Hours (2hrs.)
- Second Offense:* Community Service of Four Hours (4hrs.) or a fine of PHP 100.00
- Third Offense:* Community Service of Eight Hours (8hrs) or a fine of PHP 200.00

**In The Case Of Institutions, And Commercial Establishments:**

- First Offense:* A fine of Php 500.00
- Second Offense:* A fine of Php 800.00
- Third Offense:* Revocation or non-renewal of any licenses/permits for the establishment

**Article 9**  
**Miscellaneous Provision**

- Section 19. Proceeds of Collection** – Any amount collected as proceeds from service fees, fines and sales of solid waste products and by products shall be treated as income.
- Section 20. Withdrawal of Collected Funds** – All collected income and proceeds under this ordinance shall only be withdrawn subject to usual auditing and accounting standard procedures of public funds.
- Section 21. Collection Agent** – The Barangay Treasurer shall be the primary collection agent of the fees, fines and sales of solid waste products.
- Section 22. Proof of Transaction** – All personnel properly identified and involve in collection of payment under this ordinance shall issue official receipts.

**Article 10**  
**Final Provision**

- Section 23. Separability Clause** – If any provision of this Ordinance or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances is declared invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.
- Section 24. Repealing Clause** – All barangay ordinances, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
- Section 25. Effectivity** – This ordinance shall take effect upon the review and approval of the Sangguniang Barangay and ten (10) days after posting at the entrance of Barangay Hall and to other conspicuous places within the barangay.

ENACTED UNANIMOUSLY ON  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE CORRECTNESS OF THE ABOVE ORDINANCE.

JAYSON C. ARO  
 Barangay Secretary

CONFORME:

NORMAN L. PADIGOS  
 Barangay Kagawad

VENERJO B. PARINGIT  
 Barangay Kagawad

GERONIMO C. DECANO  
 Barangay Kagawad

ISIDRO A. CARILLO  
 Barangay Kagawad

BERNIE C. CASABAR  
 Barangay Kagawad

MARICEL B. GOTOC  
 Barangay Kagawad

VIRGINIA C. DESAMITO  
 Barangay Kagawad

## **7.6 Speech of Alderman Mr Eric Jassin for the inauguration of the mobile-stores**

*“Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the occasion of Culture Night.*

*In April 2015, I led a fact-finding mission on behalf of the Saint-Josse-ten-Noode municipality so that our municipality could develop an international partnership with a municipality in the Philippines. Ten months later, we are present among you to strengthen the links between our two municipalities. This partnership was made possible thanks to one man: Mr Ramon Guico. His team, the ladies and gentlemen of this amazing Binalonan.*

*Today, Saint-Josse comprises 140 different nationalities in 1km<sup>2</sup>. We are at the heart of Brussels, the Capital of Europe. Our municipality decided to extend its borders. We have agreements with 2 Moroccan towns, a town in Turkey, Binalonan in the Philippines, and tomorrow Jerusalem. Thank you for allowing our municipality to make our international projects a reality.*

*Thank you Mayor Ramon Guico.*

*Thank you Advisor Mr Leblanc.*

*Thank you Vice President, Mr Melicio Patague.*

*Thank you members of the Council.*

*Thank you, inhabitants of Binalonan.*

*Here, we are building relations between people.*

*Here, we are building peace between people.*

*Here, we are proud to say to you: Thank you !”*

