

THE IMPORTANCE OF CITY PLANNING IN DAVAO FOR GROWTH

(Continuation from the last issue)

Sometime in July, 1974, the coordinating Council of Organizations of Davao following a seminar on urban planning proposed to the City Council for a creation of a City Planning and Development Board to be composed of members from the public sectors and 6 members from the private sectors to be appointed by the City Mayor whose functions shall be to:

1) Prepare, recommend and keep an up-to-date, realistic, responsive and comprehensive development program designed to achieve effective resources of the city;

2) Provide information and technical advice necessary in the formulation of plans and policies and the support needed in the effective implementation thereof;

3) Prepare and recommend the criteria or standards in determining priorities for effective implementation of development program and projects;

4) To study the goals, policies

and objectives of the community as a working basis for their formulation of a comprehensive development plan for the city for recommendation to the appropriate city government authorities;

5) Conduct, or cause to be conducted, continuing studies on the social-economic and demographic conditions of the city;

6) Make studies and recommend schedules of priorities and systems of allocating the financial resources of the City Government to maximize its development;

7) Study and recommend revenue measures and other way of financing infrastructure and other development projects of the City Government;

8) Submit recommendation on the enforcement of land use, controls such as zoning, subdivision and building regulations and on relocation and resettlement program in coordination with the city and pertinent national government agencies; and

9) Coordinate and maintain liason with other government agencies and private organization in all aspects affecting the growth and development of the city.

The City Council unanimously approved this measure on July 11, 1974 under Resolution No. 1780. It was forwarded to the City Mayor on July 19, 1974, and the same was returned on August 5, 1974 to the City Council for amendments. On January 24, 1975 the City Council approved the proposed amendment under Resolution No. 2277 and the amended measure was forwarded to the City Mayor on February 3, 1975, and has now lapsed into Law as Ordinance No.

1585.

It is the Davao City Chamber of Commerce's stand that the creation of the City planning and Development Board answers the need of our community for coordination of all government activities with the joint efforts of the public and private sectors that bear upon community growth and change, especially those that influence private development, so that they all work toward comprehensive objectives. Accordingly, planning is broadened to include measures needed to foster a realization by business and civic leaders of their stake in the City development, and of their opportunities to capitalize on it.

The Private sectors remain the sole engine of economic growth, entrepreneurs remain the central factor in development. To borrow the words of President Marcos he said "The entrepreneurs, most often, the industrialist — whether as the risk-taking investor, manager, or professional, when he performs with distinction should be considered a hero of development; a title he ought to share with a dedicated and skilled work force. Indeed although we reserve this title of commendation for outstanding acts in way, I frankly think we should bestow it without fear or hesitation for outstanding performance in peace. And at the head of the line of those who should receive this honor, I should like to see the entrepreneurs take their place, as the men and women that take the risks to see a country grow, to see that country take a prideful place of dignity and respect in the community of nations."