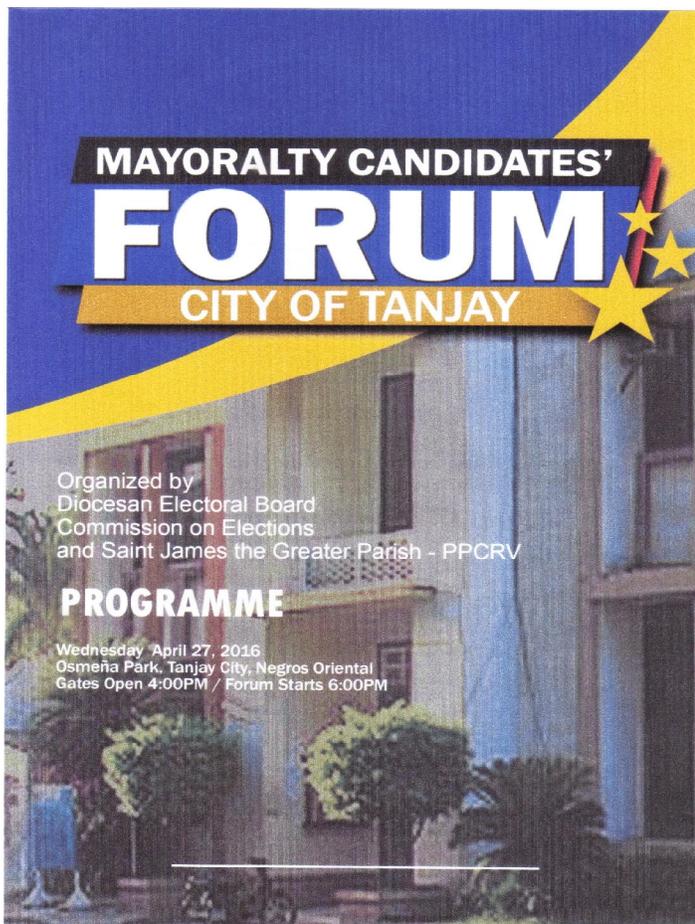


## FORUM WHERE CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR PRESENTED THEMSELVES

Tanjay City, Neg Or - April 27, 2016



### PROGRAMME

Opening Prayer

V. Rev. Msgr. Glenn M. Corsiga, PC  
*Episcopal Vicar/Moderator*

Philippine National Anthem

Words of Welcome

Atty. Ramon Antonio Ruperto  
*City Election Officer III*  
*COMELEC, Negros Oriental*

Introduction of Candidates

Introduction of Moderator

### FORUM

**Presentation of  
Platform or Program of Government**

*Intermission Number*

**Open Forum**

**Closing Statements**

**Acknowledgment**

*Special thanks to:*

*Tanjanons Around the World  
and*

*Tanjay Association USA/International*

The Forum was a smashing success. Out of a field of ten candidates running for mayor, nine participated in the event. What was even more impressive was how swiftly the preparations took form. In a little over a week or two, the organizers, namely, The Diocesan Electoral Board, The Provincial Commission on Elections, and Saint James the Greater Parish of Tanjay produced the Forum. They created, printed and distributed the following: a program (above), assignments and time schedules for candidates, moderators, panel members and support crews, general guidelines, tickets; made audio-video arrangements; prepared refreshments & food for organizers and staff, and gift packages, etc. There were timekeepers, a bell ringer, screening team for audience questions, security, ushers and facilitators, et al.

The photo below is a panoramic view of the audience inside the Osmeña auditorium, right after the program ended at past 9:00 pm.



After the usual opening remarks and introductions, each candidate was given three minutes to present their platform. It was emphasized that this was not a debate, where candidates engage each other in argument. If they did, the moderator would stop them, and mike be cut off. Then a series of questions were fielded by a panel of two from Dumaguete. Each candidate had to answer the same question in 30 seconds. This kept the timer and bell ringer very busy. Next were questions from a local panel of three, namely me Danny Gil, Braddock Calumpang, and Atty Virgie Fabe. In the meantime, the audience was allowed to write down questions which would be chosen by a group of screeners and then passed on to us.

In the end, among 5 of us panelists, each presented two questions to the candidates. With nine candidates answering, plus dead time in between, this question and answer session took over an hour.

The atmosphere got livelier and noisier as the audience cheered on their favorite candidates, especially if the questions were on hot issues. And yes, it seemed that some candidates brought their cheering squads.

The surprising and certainly entertaining aspect of this event was the presence of a person who clearly could be considered a nuisance candidate. Obviously from the back hills of some barrio, emaciated looking and with hearing aid, he gamely parried with the other candidates, going off tangent in his answers, with wild gesticulations, all in Tagalog. Most candidates talked in mixed Visayan and English. But this candidate, whose name was Greg Limatoc, was alphabetically the first in the list of who were present (hence could have been listed with the prefix A). And it didn't take any imagination to make it even funnier (A Limatoc). And he was the underdog, so the audience cheered him on every instance he went to the mike, each time asking that the question be repeated, oftentimes pulling his hearing aid.

It was riotous. But seriously, below are the candidates.

Roster of candidates (I am using my notes with nicknames as I don't have the official list), with some comments:

- |    |                       |                                           |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Greg Limatoc          | from barrio                               |
| 2  | Pepe Orlino           | incumbent vice mayor                      |
| 3  | Art Regalado          | former mayor                              |
| 4  | Neil Salma            | former vice mayor                         |
| 5  | Bebot "Eng'r" Tabaloc | retired Noreco executive                  |
| 6  | Rolando "Doc" Tabaloc | doctor with various former city positions |
| 7  | Joel Tam              | Nilo's brother, businessman               |
| 8  | Nilo Tam              | former vice mayor and businessman         |
| 9  | Steve Teves           | brother of incumbent mayor Lawrence Teves |
| 10 | Rey Concepcion        | didn't appear                             |

The hottest issues that brought loud responses was black sand mining. Almost all were against it. Other issues discussed were jobs, health care, water system, barrio roads, dike and flood control, drugs, traffic, noise pollution, recent fires, but basically it boiled down to the need for dedicated and honest city officials and good governance.

I cannot summarize the closing remarks (3 minutes) of all the candidates but it was an interesting spectrum that seemed consistent to their former positions.

Below is a photo of the stage soon after the program ended, with the candidates and some of the organizers. L-R: J Tam, R Tabaloc, S Teves, B Calumpang, G Corsiga, P Orlino, A Regalado, B Tabaloc, N Tam, G Limatoc, N Salma



I do not have good individual blow-up photos of all so here are a few.



Nilo Tam



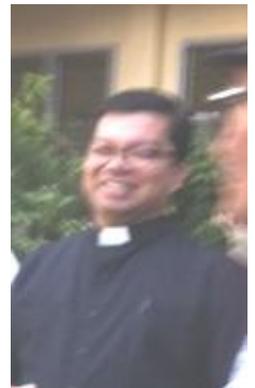
Art Regalado



Greg Limatoc

Tanjay USA underwrote some expenses including dinner for us. Since I came on board this project only 3 days ago, it was there that I realized that the most kudos should go to Msgr Glenn Corsiga of the Tanjay Parish. I understand he did most of the organizing.

Also pivotal was the role of moderator Fr Ryan Deposoy.



*Reported by Danny Gil (ferngil@aol.com), 28 Apr 2016*

**Addenda Apr 30:**

Msgr Corsiga acknowledged his thanks to Braddock Calumpang representing Tanjay USA in helping to contribute greatly to the success of the event.