

The Resiliency of Our City

By Nicolette V. Ranan

I remember 13 years ago when Sendong happened. When the city wept the death of its people. How houses were destroyed and properties were damaged. This created a bitter picture we would carry forever. Despite being tested, we are able to return. The city learns, it adapts. I recently visited Tibasak. One of the places that was most affected by Sendong, and I saw how the disaster improved their quality of life. They built a dike to help with the river, and now the bridge became a known hangout spot for people of all ages. I saw how they created solutions to future storms. Proving how our city is resilient.

Our city didn't back down, I saw it grow under the hands of talented individuals from our government, creating counter measures to make sure something of the same caliber wouldn't damage us once again. Our city got back stronger; it solidified its footing through all this. Creating a solid path, guiding the youth towards their greater future. Our city makes continuous improvement, evolving to cater everyone's needs. Hence, it is mothering the youth that will later become the pillars to create the "best" city. Our city will not waver in front of calamities; hence it will prosper in face of adversity. Creating an impact to our community.

When I think of a sustainable city, I envision a city that continuously changes, adaptive to unexpected variables thrown at us, shelters the afflicted and feeds the jobless. A city that comforts us, a city that will not fall from nature's games. I envision a city that nurtures each of us, creating an environment where creative minds are able to showcase talent where they could repay their love for our city by helping it grow. Just like how dikes were built in Tibasak, an idea that was implemented to better prepare for future calamities.

And when the time comes that I'm able to contribute to the city. I will make it so it feels like home. I will clean the streets to comfort the busiest of minds, helping contribute to the lessening of pollution. I will create facilities that

will serve as stepping stones for future leaders, helping create an easier path to those who lead in the future. I will make it so that every single one of our youth has access to the best form of education. I will oust all those who hurt without reason, and I will forgive those who were wronged. That's what I could do. That's what I'm capable of doing as a future leader to a resilient and sustainable city.