



CHAPTER 3

DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS AND POTENTIALS

In this chapter, the present situation and condition of the Municipality of Orion are assessed. The municipality's potentials for development could be the starting point for the local government's development plans and programs. Building on these potentials could help realize development goals and objectives. On the other hand, in spite of the numerous potentials of the town, there also exist several constraints which may seem to hinder development. The local government, therefore, should address these constraints appropriately so as to mitigate their impacts on their development goals.

3.1 Environment Sector

A large portion of the Municipal land is concentrated to agriculture production, i.e., rice, fruits, coconut and vegetables. As a result, yard and field wastes makes up a large portion (33%) of the wastes generated from the locality. This means that at least one third of Orion's wastes is biodegradable and thus, has good environmental implication.

However, the local government is confronted with other solid waste management (SWM) problems. The public market contributes 11% to the total waste generated in the locality. The food waste collected from the public market is not yet segregated, i.e., it is mixed with non-biodegradable waste such as plastic containers and styrofoam due to noncompliance of stall owners. There is a need for orientation on segregation and an office to monitor the implementation of waste segregation

program. Funds are also needed to procure needed segregation equipment. Although the barangay governments were assigned to implement the SWM projects, but due to the "ningas cogon" attitude at the barangay level, sustainability of these projects is also problematic. A monitoring and feedback system to ensure performance is also lacking. Added to this, a SWM department is not formally included in the organizational structure of the Municipal Government.

Figure 3.1: Garbage Dump near the mouth of Santo Domingo River in Brgy. Santo Domingo



Dynamite fishing within the municipal waters is another concern that must be addressed. It is common knowledge that dynamite fishing is illegal for good reasons, i.e., to protect the bounty of the sea for future generation. Indiscriminate catching of fishes would lead to its extinction.



3.2 Social Sector

The local government of Orion could utilize the municipality's relatively strong religious base in the implementation of its development programs. It was noted that 90% of the population are Catholics. Most of these are members of organized groups which the LGU could easily tap for its programs.

Orion also has a relatively high enrollment rate. Of the target elementary education enrollees, 87 are enrolled out of 100 potential students. Regarding secondary education, 97 out of 100 potential students are enrolled. This relatively high enrollment rate could translate into a population that is more capable, which the municipality could tap as the implementers and managers of its projects.

For the social sector, one of the major constraints which could become an issue in the development of the municipality is the rate at which the population grows. At present, the average population growth rate is computed to be 2.43%. At this rate, the population of the municipality will double in approximately 31 years. A growing population would of course need more services from the local government, and at present, the municipal government still lacks manpower and resources.

Table 3.1: Historical Trend of Population Growth for Philippines, Bataan and Orion

YEAR	PHILIPPINES	BATAAN	ORION
1903-1918	2.03	1.48	0.70
1918-1939	2.11	1.84	1.50
1939-1948	2.07	0.92	-2.46
1948-1960	2.89	4.90	4.43
1960-1970	3.08	2.72	2.98
1970-1980	2.71	4.10	3.61
1980-1990	2.35	2.79	2.32
1990-2000	2.36	2.73	2.25

Still related to the municipality's population is the average number of members per household. On the average, each household consist of 5-6 members. These are usually cramped in housing units ranging from 20-70 m². According to the Department of Health, this should be a cause for concern as several diseases, especially those linked with respiratory problems, could be attributed to cramped housing units.

The local government should also address the issue of certain households which have no means of properly disposing their wastes. Another issue that should be dealt with is the need for more socialized housing projects especially for identified fisherfolks with no access to land tenure, and thus resort to living on house on stilts near the shoreline.

Figure 3.2: Fishing communities along the shoreline in Brgy. Kapunitan





Another health-related concern is the lack of health facilities. The nearest hospital accessible to the people is located in Balanga City, which is located approximately 8 kilometers away. Additionally, 6 of the 23 barangays have no health center.

Although there is a relatively high enrollment rate for both elementary and high school levels, Orion has insufficient elementary classrooms and public high schools to meet the required standard ratios.

3.3 Economic Sector

The rich natural resources and strategic geographic location of Orion provides the Municipality with a large economic development potential. A large portion of land is concentrated and is suitable for agriculture. This indicates a high agriculture production potential. Additionally, Orion is blessed with a shoreline, which provides the municipality with a thriving fishing industry, as well as potential for a thriving tourism industry.

The presence of a port in Orion which enjoys national government support and is equipped with more developed facilities compared to other ports in Bataan can produce a vibrant economic activity if properly operated. The port can serve as Gateway to Bataan and open opportunities for local industries to flourish. This would also address the issue on the lack of employment opportunities within the Municipality.

At present, however, the port is not generating much income and is not operating at optimum level. Additionally, port service facilities are also lacking. The local government should look into this and come up with appropriate measures to be able to realize the economic potential provided by its existence.

Figure 3.3: Passenger Loading Dock in the Port of Orion



Six out of the twenty-three barangays are geographically strategic for fishpond production. The realization of this potential would bring in a healthy economic environment for the municipality. It was also observed that many households are engaged in the processing of aquaculture products such as "tuyo" and "daing." A program to maintain and enhance this industry would uplift the economic life of these households and, consequently, the community. The same goes for the growing food processing industry of dried fruits and other agricultural products.

Also, the government should come up with programs to promote these industries. The fisherfolks as well as households engaged in the backyard and food processing industries should be organized to ensure sustainability of programs relating to their development.

Some entrepreneurs put up "talipapas" in some areas. This provides access to constituents who are relatively far from the



Orion Public Market is located. Small businesses are found in the barangays of Orion, however, not all are registered with the Municipal Government. There is a gap between the registered and actual number of establishments.

3.4 Physical and Infrastructure Sector

Much has to be done regarding the infrastructure sector of the Municipality of Orion. Farm-to-market roads are lacking, and the current road network has no clear hierarchy, and is not fully interconnected, resulting in many dead ends. Additionally, there are also so many narrow roads and most of the roads have no street names, which can lead to poor orientation in traveling around Orion. Lastly, there are a significant number of roads that need improvement, in terms of condition and road capacity. To realize Orion's vision of being a Gateway of Bataan, these issues must be properly addressed, since the road network plays an important part in this aspect.

Public transport is another vital component in realizing Orion's vision of being a Gateway of Bataan. Currently, the service characteristics, as well as the facilities of the public transport system, needs room for improvement. For one, there are no formal terminals with appropriate passenger facilities within the municipality. Further, the components of the public transportation system are not properly integrated with each another, such that it makes it hard for the traveller to move into and around Orion. The dominant mode of intra-municipality transport is the tricycle. These tricycles, however, do not have definite routes and no definite terminals. Hence, regulation of the same is not maximized.

Figure 3.4: Tricycle passing by the Municipio



Another form of public transport which may be developed and yet remains untapped is water-based public transport system. Given that the eastern boundary of the municipality is the bay, and that the municipality has many traversing rivers, there is a high potential for a water-based transportation system. Additionally, barangays near these water tributaries have a high boat-ownership rate which makes it easier to implement such a concept. Relating to the economic sector, a water-based transportation system can also be used to transport agricultural and fish products, in, around and out of the municipality.

Basing on the data from the Ecological Profile, Orion has a great potential in fisheries, livestock industry and aquaculture. It is not enough to have the natural resources such as the sea and grazing land in order for these industries to fully develop. There is also a need to have the necessary support facilities. However, at present, there are no cold storage facilities near the port. Also the current slaughter house is a bit small and dilapidated.



Right-of-way problems also need to be addressed. To wit, although there is an existing socialized housing project, there is no definite right-of-way to the site. The roads leading to the sanitary landfill are still not developed due to right-of-way problems. Hence, the new sanitary landfill cannot operate efficiently and effectively. Additionally, in the future, to realize the vision of becoming a Gateway, the road networks should have sufficient capacity, which translates to wider road widths, and which has right-of-way acquisition implications. The government should initiate steps and programs as early as possible to ensure smoother right-of-way acquisitions, both from the point of view of the government and the citizenry.

In terms of institutional support infrastructure, the municipal hall is still unfinished. Hence, the several departments are crowded within the old municipal hall. Further, there is only one office each for the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). There is a need to provide sub-stations for the PNP and the BFP in support of the expected development within the town.

3.5 Institutional Sector

The healthy working relationship between the Local Chief Executive and the Sanggunian Bayan is a major strength of the local government. This would enable the achievement of the Municipality's development goals and objectives through coordination and collaboration. The Municipal Government and its Barangay Governments also has smooth relationship with each other which ensures the cooperation of the barangays in the implementation of development programs and projects.

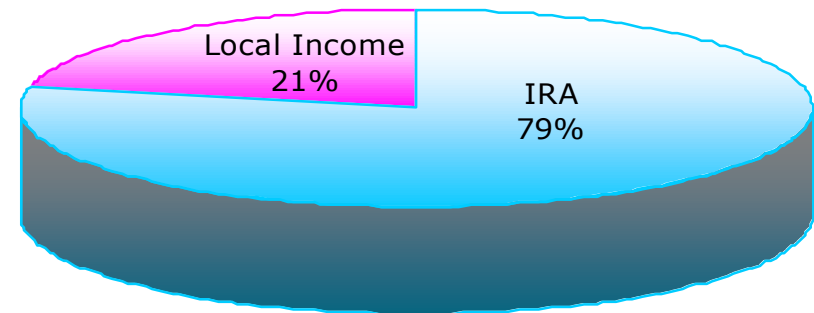
On the other hand, some departments are understaffed and lack the requisite skills and experience to manage future growth and development. Trainings to develop the staff are also needed, especially for positions requiring special skills. The problem on

staffing, however, is anchored on the insufficiency of municipal fund. There is no budget allocation for additional staff.

Pertinent ordinances and resolutions are outdated. These include regulations pertaining to environment and protected areas and local revenues. These should be amended and updated to suit the present needs of the locality. The Local Revenue Code is an important instrument that would enable the generation of income for the local government and thus, increase its fiscal self-reliance.

At present, the Municipal Government is highly dependent on IRA. This is due to untapped sources of funds, poor tax collection, lack of a fiscal management plan, and lack of investors. Also, the gap in the registered and actual number of establishments adds up to the problem in local revenue generation. This problem could be attributed to the lack of monitoring of businesses.

Figure 3.5: Dependency and Self-Reliance Index, 2003



Peoples Organizations (POs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) could be tapped as development partners of the Municipal Government. There are a number of PO's and NGO's in Orion, however, there is lack of monitoring of their status, i.e., whether they are active or inactive.



The Municipal Government lacks an information officer. An information officer is vital to the development of the locality. The information officer could serve as the key personnel to promote Orion and attract investors and tourists to the Municipality. The position would also enable the coordination and linkage of information among the various departments within the Municipality.

Information campaign is also needed to promote awareness on the programs and projects of the Municipal Government. It is also needed to keep the constituents informed on the laws and regulations that govern the Municipality. The Municipal Government should also come up with monitoring and feedback mechanisms on the policies, programs, and projects being implemented, to ensure that targets are made, as well as providing data for future planning.

3.6 Conclusion

Although there have been identified many possible constraints to the development of Orion, these same issues nonetheless could be turned into potential starting points for the development in the municipality. The municipality possesses many valuable resources, both natural and man-made, such that if these properly allocated planned well, they can serve as catalysts for growth and development.