

**Whole City Awards Entry**  
**Community:** Parañaque City, Philippines  
**Category: D** –Population 150,001 – 400,000

**ABSTRACT**

The Parañaque City Government works with and for the people, encouraging greater citizen participation in policy-making and community affairs. In aid of legislation, public consultations and hearings are conducted to get the people's views, opinions, suggestions and recommendations on concerns and issues. This Local Government Unit then and now mobilizes community resources towards disease prevention; disaster risk reduction and preparedness; maintaining public order and safety; combating criminality; protecting the environment and ecology; improving livelihood prospects; spurring growth, development and prosperity.

The citizens' unwavering support serves as this local government unit's strong anchor to incessantly work in the direction of growth and development, all geared towards the better and brighter future of the City of Parañaque. It always looks forward to a continuing partnership with the citizens and all the other sectors that comprise the city, feeling assured that the joint undertaking will lead to the realization of aims, objectives and goals.

The quality of life is measured not only through socio-economic indicators but also through the quality of the environment. There is a need to protect what remains of the city's natural resources and the necessity to maintain ecological balance, for the benefit of the people and of future generations.

Many years back, Parañaque was in shambles: It was a dark, dirty, neglected and backward city. It was the target of numerous mockeries and was constantly jeered at within and outside the bounds of Metropolitan Manila. Correspondingly, an infamous anecdote circulated which says a person who is a complete stranger in Metro Manila can practically sniff his way to Parañaque. Even without landmarks, the person can readily tell when he is already in Parañaque when his nostrils catch the stench of garbage in the air.

Complementing the environmentally-friendly waste management system is the Cleanliness and Beautification Project of Mayoral Spouse Mdm. Ma. Fe C. Bernabe. A lush of green and a myriad of blossom on elevated traffic center islands have become a welcome sight for motorists and pedestrians. Apart from accentuating the landscape, they promote safety by serving as deterrent against jaywalking and help in cleaning the air by absorbing harmful hydrocarbons from vehicle emissions.

The City of Parañaque continues to actively participate and support ecology-centered activities. It has become a favorite site for Earth Day and Month of the Oceans celebrations and related activities on account of the city's environmentally-friendly policies and initiatives including the planting of mangrove saplings along the city's coastline and riverbanks; organizing environmental concerns awareness symposiums and forums; and savings its river system.

Apart from being a clean and environmentally-friendly city, Parañaque is also a healthy place. In addition to the modernization of its public hospital and health centers, it continues to make innovations in health care.

## **Strategic Planning**

The Parañaque City Government has a 5-year Comprehensive Development plan that incorporates and balances the social, economic as well as the environmental aspects of growth and development. It is rooted on “Project H.E.L.P.S.” that covers the city administration’s thrusts:

**H**Health

**E**ducation

**L**ivelihood

**P**rosperity

**S**ocial Services, socialized housing and sports development

The establishment of effective support facilities for a livable community, providing a business-friendly environment and empowering the citizenry are the city’s mission in order to develop Parañaque as a prime habitat area and an investors’ haven of the Metro South. The city government, joined by its citizens is fulfilling this mission and is proud of the success.

The gains in the area of health, coupled by successes in the delivery of other basic services like education, livelihood, services and peace and order transforms Parañaque to one of the highly urbanized cities in the country.