

P-Noy has just celebrated his first year in office with a musical program at the Ultra where he proudly delivered his Ulat sa Bayan.

What happened to our motherland after one year? Well, still intact— Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the Cordillera Region in the north and the Muslim Mindanao here in the south except the postponed

ARMM elections and the Chinese intrusion in our territorial rights over the Spratly Islands.

In a span of one year, according to the Chief Executive, his administration was able to stop the wastage of public funds like the exorbitant wages, bonuses and allowances in GOGCs and GFIs, spurious projects and transactions, increase revenue collections, increase rice production leading to self-sufficiency in 2015 and the transformation of all government functionaries to eradicate corruption in public offices once and for all.

So despite the surmounting criticisms against the current administration, still we could see a flicker of hope in the distant horizon as we listened to the Ulat sa Bayan from the bachelor President. Five more years to go. It's more than enough for him to achieve greater than what his predecessors did. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope against hope that P-Noy's vision would come true.

What about our local officials here? What has transpired in a year's time? Anything substantial that the people of Zamboanga City, particularly the poor sector, are benefitted from? Collect huge revenues, put up modern structures and facilities— but who are directly benefitted? Only the moneyed merchants are taking advantage.

The poor vendors selling candles, popcorn, balut, peanuts, etc. are shoved away depriving of a fair chance to earn a decent living.

Students of poor parents who are just average in class, but interested to finish a college course cannot avail of educational assistance from the city government. Only valedictorians, salutatorians and those with an average grade of 87 are accepted for the scholarship.

From our point of view— poverty alleviation or emancipation from poverty are only good in political speeches. But in actuality, extended are mere relief goods or doleouts— a kilo of rice, sardines and noodles.

Nevertheless, the ray of hope is still gleaming somewhere between vision and illusion that one day soon our city officials would stop looking down at our unfortunate brothers as worthless beggars, but productive citizens who can contribute to the development of the city if given the chance. --Jack Edward Enriquez