

TO THE PEOPLE OF SAIPAN -

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

This day marked the termination of my third term in office, serving my land and my people as Chief Commissioner. On this occasion, I would like to speak to you a little in regards to the responsibilities that my people had me to shoulder from the fourth of July 1945 through August 31st 1953.

No one should be in doubt to know that the Municipal Government was inaugurated with practically nothing in the line of guides or instructions. A lot of hardships and very serious problems were encountered all during these periods in order for us to accomplish our dreams and the much important and immediate NEED of our community. Many a time it became necessary to sacrifice one's clothing to accommodate the other.

We were given the Civil Government under the United Nations which was accepted by the United States as Administering Authority. There and then, we were very much unprepared to meet the administration where we could make it function to meet our hopes and desires for accomplishment. However, through unselfishness, true efforts, courage, cooperation by all, and by the Grace of GOD, we at least coped with the situation. Today I am turning over my duties and responsibilities to the new Administrator of our Government. Our new Chief may have new plans and a very good start, but without cooperation of all hands, it will not reach a GOAL. For these reasons I am begging you, one and all, as good and faithful citizens, to give your full support to our new Chief like the support and cooperation you have given me during my term in office.

Now, I will express the gratitude which I have deep in my heart to those good people who helped make possible the good accomplishment and welfare of our government from the start. My most hearty appreciation to the Saipan Congress, Councilmen and Commissioners from the First Saipan Congress to the Sixth for their untiring efforts shown all through the years which made possible the Municipal Administration Charters. Sometimes we fought hard and very serious, but our motives were mutual. This is another proof to show that you and I were only aiming at one full course - ACCOMPLISHMENT.

To all the school teachers - by your love and devotion to your country, by your profession, the firm constitution you have pledged yourselves into, and FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION despite the difficulties and criticisms shot at you from left to right, you went ahead and educated our children.

Also, to the businessmen whom I sometimes bothered for help at times when an emergency arose.

And lastly, to those men in the Municipal Administration, in the offices and in the fields who were always faithful and obliging.

My good people, in the course of self-government, we are still GREEN. From the experiences I have gained, I learned to know that no boss can please his constituents if he were to comply with his duties and obligations, simply because his decisions to some people will favor and disfavor. It is like the RAIN. When it rains, the farmers will be happy, but the launderers will not be happy because the clothes will not dry. So, like the Chief Commissioner's job, my decisions sometimes will hurt my best friend, but what can I do if I am to oblige him, it will be contrary to that of my just obligations. From all these angles, it will not be fair to expect gratis from the Chief at all times, but must bear in mind, instead, it is our obligation to help him dispose of his duties accordingly.

In order to have good Government, we must be good citizens. To be a good citizen, it will be necessary to comply with the following obligations:

1. Obligation to God.
2. Obligation to Country.
3. Obligation to Neighbor.
4. Obligation to Yourself.

These four obligations are the fundamentals of GOOD MORAL, but to merit such good morals, we must RIDD of EGOISM. EGOISM is the worst enemy of the aforementioned obligations or good moral.

I ask you all again for your full support to make our government prospect last. It is for our welfare and it is also our obligation.

I will close my address to you, and with it I will promise you as much that I can do within my power to help you, individually or collectively, wherever I am - in the office or in the shops. I thank you and may GOD bless you all - ADIOS.

ELIAS P. SABLAN