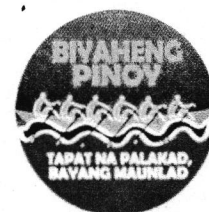




REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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June 17, 2011

JOSE B. BASALLO  
Vice-Mayor  
Municipality of Pugo  
La Union



Dear VM Basallo;

This refers to your letter requesting for legal opinion on the queries, which we hereunder quoted, viz:

1. Can the Local Chief Executive (LCE) prohibit municipal officials/employees from attending sessions of the Sangguninang Bayan (SB) who were invited to give a briefing and enlighten the members on matters pertaining to the implementation of programs of the local government unit (LGU)?
2. If the LCE can prohibit municipal officials/employees from attending sessions of the SB, what other options are available to the SB in order to be able to obtain official information that is very important in the performance of its legislative task?
3. If the LCE is not in a position to prohibit officials/employees from attending sessions when they are being invited, what sanction can be imposed on the official/employee who refuses to attend?
4. Can the Municipal Administrator impose the orders of the municipal mayor who is on leave of absence due to travel abroad on municipal officials/employees when the order was tantamount to disobedience to the will of the acting mayor?

Before dwelling on the issues, may we first invite your attention to the provision of the Local Government Code of 1991, to wit:

CHAPTER III  
Officials and Offices Common to All Municipalities  
ARTICLE I  
The Municipal Mayor

**Section 444.** *The Chief Executive: Powers, Duties, Functions and Compensation.* -

(a) The municipal mayor, as the chief executive of the municipal government, shall exercise such powers and performs such duties and functions as provided by this Code and other laws.