

Cuyapo official shot dead

CUYAPO, Nueva Ecija — Barely three days after being sworn into office, the secretary of the municipal council here was shot dead Wednesday by a security guard/ driver of the incumbent Cuyapo Mayor Amado Corpuz.

Angelito Espinosa, 40, sustained two fatal gunshot wounds to the body. His suspected assailant was identified as Carlito Samonte, 56.

His widow Precilla, who works as a medical technologist at the town's Rural Health Unit, said her husband had gone out of the office at around 10 am after taking some snacks with her when she heard a shot. "Alam ko siya na iyong binari." She claimed the killing has something to do with several cases, including violation of the Magna Carta for Health Workers, they have filed against Corpuz at the Office of the Ombudsman.

"Mister ko po kasi ang namuhala sa lahat ng paper works sa aming ipinaglalaman, kaya naniniwala ako hyon ang dahilan. Nagatray nija nila siya pero itutuloy namin ang labang ito" the dry-eyed widow said.

Espinosa managed to run to the police station despite being wounded where he was met by responding policemen. Samonte tried to flee but was chased and captured by Cuyapo police chief Supt. Danilo Fernando and two of his men. — *Agis de Guzman*