



Paglaum



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The official publication of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

1,521 local execs sharpen barangay governance skills

Word from the Center



Prof. Nene Pimentel guides the thrusts and vision of the Center

This is the first edition of the newsletter of the Center.

It is called Paglaum, meaning hope.

We believe it is an apt title.

First because it is hope - for a better tomorrow - that keeps our people alive and working to achieve even that seemingly elusive end.

And second, because hope is at the center of the three virtues that the Redeemer emphasized are essential to our redemption,

the other two being faith and love.

It is our hope then that with your support and the blessings of the Almighty, the message of national transformation through the people of the barangay, the municipality, the city and the province which the Center is trying to undertake would bring nothing but good for the welfare of our country and our fellow citizens.

More than 1,500 participants, most of them local government executives, have sharpened their skills in good barangay governance in eight workshops and seminars conducted by the Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. Center for Local Governance and Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance from September 2010 to September 2011.

The two non-profit organizations are spearheading a nationwide movement to promote good barangay governance in the grassroots level, in a bid to improve the delivery of services to the people and attain national transformation.

The Pimentel Institute for

Leadership and Governance is a non-stock, non-profit foundation that promotes competent and innovative leadership from the private sector.

Records from the Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. Center for Local Governance and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance show more than 1,000 participants came from the local government sector composed of punong barangays, barangay kagawads, other barangay officials and municipal officials.

The seminars were conducted at the University of Makati and one in Cabanatuan City in the last twelve months.

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Vice President Jejomar Binay, a longtime local executive before rising to national prominence, emphasizes that good barangay governance is key to national transformation, that will impact directly on the lives and welfare of the people.

SULTAN OF SULU PRESSES SABAH CLAIM

“Padjak”: the eye of a dispute

For many of us, the word “Padjak” when mentioned sounds like that popular three-wheeled mode of public transport used by most commuters.

“Padjak” is pronounced exactly as “Padyak” also called the “tri-sikad”, powered by the push of the pedals of an improvised bicycle to bring a passenger from one point to another, at a price.

But unknown to many, the word “Padjak” is at the eye of centuries-old dispute over who has the rightful claim of Sabah or North Borneo, a land of 30,000 square miles rich in natural resources.

Engr. Abraham J. Idjirani, Secretary-General and National Spokesperson of the Sultanate of Sulu in his speech at the University of Makati last October 15, 2011, declared that the dispute over Sabah has revolved around one key word: “Padjak”.

A longtime ago, in 1878, the Sultanate of Sulu ruler of Sabah, leased the land to British North Borneo Company.

According to Idjirani, Professor Harold Conklin of Yale University translated “Padjak” as “Lease”.

Malaysia clings to the erroneous interpretation of the word “Padjak” as “cession in perpetuity”, which is the crux of the Sabah dispute.

Sultan Esmail D. Kiram II, the reigning 34th Sultan of Sulu and North Borneo has made an impassioned appeal for support to press the claim of Sabah (also called North Borneo) as under the sovereign title of the Sultanate of Sulu, and not as part of the territory of neighboring Malaysia.

The Sultan of Sulu made the declaration in his discussion over the long standing dispute of ownership of the land between Malaysia and the Sultanate.

The discussion was conducted jointly by the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and the Royal Council (Ruma Bechara) of the Sultanate of Sulu on October 15, 2011 at the University of Makati.

“Allow me to appeal and request your support in furtherance of the Sabah claim for the future of our nation and for the good of Filipino generations yet to come,” the sultan of Sulu told participants of the activity.



(L-R) Sultan Esmail Kiram, Prof. Nene Pimentel, Almarim Centi Tillah and Usec. Jose Brillantes of Department of Foreign Affairs were the main speakers in the symposium which discussed the claim of sultanate of sulu over Sabah at the University of Makati.

Sadly, the issue over the claim of Sabah has been placed in the backburner by the Philippine government.

The Sultanate of Sulu claims sovereign rights over Sabah by historical and legal title.

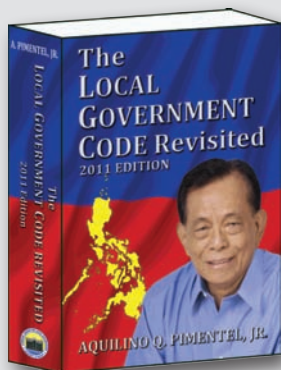
Sabah or North Borneo is 30,000 square miles and rich in oil and natural resources, located just below the southern tip of

Palawan.

Because of its strategic location, it serves as gateway to all South East Asian nations, which potentially can be a site of brisk economic traffic between countries in the region.

It is Malaysia, and not the sultanate of Sulu nor the Philippines that is able to exploit the resources in Sabah.

The
Local Government Code Revisited
2011 Edition
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 **Paglaum** 

The official publication of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

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INFO-BITS

- * The PCLG was the brainchild of then Makati City Mayor (now VP) Jojo Binay and UMaK President Tom Lopez.
 - It's main purpose is to upgrade the good governance skills of LG officials, and, stiffen their resolve to combat corruption.
 - Forums for issues relevant to the nation are occasionally provided by the Center.
- * The PILG is the foundation arm of the PCLG. Among other things, it looks for partners to help the Center spread its reach into the immense field of local governance that includes at least 42,026 barangays; 1,496 municipalities; 138 cities, and, 80 provinces.
- * The Center holds seminars for local officials at the UMaK or where requested by LGUs concerned.
- * The provisions of the Local Government Code, the Constitution and other laws applicable to the Local Government operations are the main con-



Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim shares his experiences as a longtime local executive during the inaugural seminar on barangay governance at the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and governance. (L-R) Pastor Roy Carandang, Pastor King Flores, Mayor Lim, Prof. Nene Pimentel and Brgy. Capt. of Forbes Makati Joe Concepcion who was also a resource person.

tents of the Center's seminars.

- * Moral values and ethical norms relevant to good governance are embedded in the seminar topics in the belief that morals and ethics strengthen good governance practices.
- * A melange of respected personalities have shared and continue to share their experiences in good governance.

- The distinguished roster of the Centers Fellows, Speakers/Resource Persons includes VP Jojo Binay, Sen. Koko Pimentel, Prof. Tom Lopez, Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, Chief Justice Renato Puno, Bishop Deogracias Iniguez, Dean Ederson Tapia, UP Vice President, Dr. Prospero de Vera, Prof. Winston Marbella, Fr. Anton Pascual, Congresswoman Cynthia Villar, Dean Alex Bril-

lantes, Gov. Almarim Tillah, Luigi Gana, Prof. Terry Dumogho, Sultan Esmail Kiram II, King Flores, Dr. Jimmy Ocampo, Architect Roy Carandang, Atty. Gwen P. Gana, Dr. Steeve Gotilano, Coylee Gamboa, Atty. Jay Dejaresco, Cris Uy, Dr. Norma Camunay, Engr. Abe Idjirani, Hugh Nguyen, and, Liza Ting.

Essay Contest Winners get prizes Dec. 9, 2011

The winners of the Center-sponsored Essay Contest on Barangay issues will get their prizes on December 9, 2011 at the Mini Theater, University of Makati.

Sen. Bongbong Marcos as Chair of the Senate Committee on Local Governments will hand out substantial prizes to the winners.

The topic open to Freshmen and Sophomore participants was: "The Role of the Barangay in the Transformation of a Nation"

For Junior and Senior students the topic was: "The Importance of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the People's Search for Justice."

Prizes range from P10,000 for 3rd place; P15,000 for 2nd place

and P20,000 for the 1st place winner.

With the essay contest the Center and the PILG hoped to provide the students of the UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI with the opportunity to express their ideals and community concerns through essay writing.

The contest also sought to inspire the students of the UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI to participate and compete in a competition aimed at community awareness.

The Board of Judges include Ms. Coylee Gamboa, a known book writer and editor, Dr. Norma Camunay, and, Prof. Janet Dana, head of the Com-Arts department of the University.

'Nativity-han' artists shine in Belen contest

In the spirit of Christmas, the Pimentel Center for Local Governance sponsored a 'nativity-han' contest among the various departments of the University.

The competition seeks "to put Christ back into the center of Christmas."

The best and most innovative depiction of the birth of Christ in contemporary Filipino setting will get the top prize.

The contest was open to all constituents of the academic and administrative department of the University of Makati.

Winners will receive the following prizes: 1st place – P15,000 cash and trophy; 2nd place –

P10,000 cash; 3rd place – P5,000 cash

A special prize of Php 4,000 shall be awarded to the most environment friendly entry.

The entries will be open to viewing by the public at their assigned locations in the lobbies of different floors of the buildings in the university.

Pastors King Flores, Roy Carandang, Hugh Nguyen, Liza Ting, and, Cris Uy compose panel of judges.

Prof. Mary Acel D. German, Executive Director, Center for Performing and Digital Arts inspired the holding of the Contest.

Upsetting the Status Quo - THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE: after 20 years

Statement of Nene PIMENTEL during the commemoration of the 20th year of the Local Government Code, October 10, 2011 at the Philippine International Convention Center

The Local Government Code was made law on October 10, 1991, 20 years ago, today.

Has it made a difference on the lives of our people?

I think so.

With some powers originally concentrated in the hands of the central government in Manila now devolved to the LGUs, there is no way the status quo (before the Code was enacted) in the areas of local governments would be kept. Moreover, with 40% of the monies that were previously collected and disbursed by the central government money now going directly into the coffers of local government units – there is no preventing changes for the better in local governance from taking place.

Abuses

But are there abuses?

Certainly, there are. Glaring examples are the brazen employments of Ghost Employees for Ghost Projects as in Quezon City and the unabashed bias for favored contractors as in Cagayan de Oro City.

In plain language, the looting of public funds do happen unfortunately in some LGUs.

But is that the fault of the Local Government Code?

Of course, it is not.

Malversation laws

There are applicable laws against malversation or even plunder of public funds.

There are accounting procedures to be followed.

There is the Commission on Audit to check on the validity of the disbursement of public funds.

Still, the looting and the thievery go on. In some, but, happily, not in all local government units.

What can be done immediately to stop the hemorrhage of public funds that go into the bloody pockets of the thieves in local government?

Strict COA rules

Apply strict COA regulations. Replace COA auditors who are either helpless or, worse, in cahoots with corrupt local government officials.

Prosecute and jail all of them. Get the Ombudsman, now that we have a new one at the helm of the crime busting organization – Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, who has a no-nonsense and incorruptible reputation, to act speedily on the cases that are filed with the office. And not allow the inordinate delay of the charges that keep both the offenders and the offended parties waiting no end for a just resolution of their cases.

Perhaps, if corruption is really shown as a way of life of a particular local government unit, then, the next quarterly releases of the internal revenue shares of the concerned LGU may be – amendatory law – be withheld until the previously released shares are properly liquidated and accounted for.

There are some amendments to the Local Government Code that I urgently propose:

1. Increasing the internal revenue share of LGUs from 40% to 50%. This will translate into several billions more for the coffers of local governments.
2. Including the collections of all government agencies like Customs, the LTO, and, even from



Prof. Nene Pimentel stresses the importance to continue pursuing the dream of genuine local autonomy

gas revenues in the totality of the funds to be divided up between the central and local governments 50-50. As of now, only BIR collections are included in the funds to be shared by the central government with the local government units.

3. Prohibiting the central government from recentralizing directly or indirectly the powers of agencies like Health, Agriculture and Social Welfare that had been devolved.
4. Reducing the Internal Revenue shares of certain cities that are awash with money and redirecting the excess funds to municipalities and barangays in clear need of development assistance.
5. Increasing the power and the funds of local governments for the education of their constituents and for disaster mitigation and risk management.

No tinkering

As I end, may I give this piece

of advice to the national administration officials: Please do not tinker with the INTERNAL REVENUE shares of local governments. If you have to reduce their internal revenue shares, do so in accordance with law. There is a procedure defined in the Local Government Code to adjust the internal revenue shares. Follow the law and avoid complicating the lives of our people in and out of local governments. You will also avoid unnecessary lawsuits and antagonizing the officials and the residents especially of the poorer areas of the country.

Hope

Those are some observations that I, as one of the authors of the Local Government Code of 1991, feel I need to share with our readers. I hope that the ideas can spark better ones to attain the dream of local autonomy: law and order; peace and development, and, the much-awaited hope of the transformation of our people and our country.

ABAY: Transforming leaders from within with faith groups

By Cris Uy

Filipinos are highly religious people. Even before the Spaniards came, Filipinos already have some sort of a system to worship someone supernatural. Phil Zuckerman, a professor of sociology at Pitzer College, estimated in 2007 that only less than 1% of the populations of the Philippines are atheist. This only proves that Filipinos are treating religion with high regard. Spirituality and religiosity are woven in the Filipino culture- you can never separate that from the way Filipino live and think.

Filipinos highly respect religious leaders and are easily influenced by them. That is why religious leaders have the capacity to determine the destiny of our nation. Faith groups have great influence in Philippine society.

Aside from the Barangay hall, you cannot find any other structure located in every village except a place of worship like a church, mosque, temple and house fellowship centers. Faith groups are all over the country. They have the capacity to teach and influence people. This is the great potential of faith groups. If they can be tapped to educate people on national transformation, they can make a great difference.

The Pimentel Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILG) envisions a transformed nation through good governance. To make this vision a reality, PILG has to empower people to become servant-leaders for national transformation starting from the elected officials of the local government

units. PILG believes that no seminar nor workshop can genuinely transform a person. Genuine transformation can only be achieved through experiences and relationships. Experiences and relationships prepare the hearts so that the lectures heard from the seminars can penetrate and take root. This is the very reason why ABAY was formed.

Maximizing the potentials of faith groups, ABAY is a group of volunteers from religious sector who made a commitment to work alongside the PILG-trained barangay officials in their pursuit to transform their communities. They are committed to build relationship and walk with barangay officials and have them experience positive change. To date, PILG has around 200 trained ABAY volunteers ready to serve the barangays.

* * *

Thoughts on Religion and Peace

from Tony Blair, former UK Prime Minister
(Excerpts from an article published in the
Washington Post 11/21/11)

There will be no peace in our world without an understanding of the place of religion within it. The past decade has seen many convenient myths which disguised the importance of religion, stripped away. Many thought: as society progressed, religion would decline. It hasn't happened.

The virus of terror based on a perversion of the proper faith of Islam, shows no signs of abating.

But it is not only the acts of terror that should alarm us. It is the extremism that promotes persecution of religious minorities too...where human dignity is not respected and freedom of religion denied. This results in a general oppression of people of faith.

It means we must support Muslims in Gujarat, India; non-Orthodox Christians in Mol-

dova; Bahai's in Iran; Ahmadiis in Pakistan; all Christians in North Africa; Hindus in Sri Lanka; Shi'a in several Sunni majority countries, and other places.

Religion is a powerful, motivating, determining force shaping the world around us.

For millions of people, faith is not measured in prejudice, intolerance or violence; but in love, compassion, a desire for and a striving for a more just and humane world.

For this to happen, religious, secular and political people need to start talking with each other to build peaceful co-existence.

We need religion-friendly democracy and democracy friendly religion.

(more next issue)



Speakers and moderators sitting from left to right: Popoy De Vera, Nene Pimentel, VP Jojo Binay, Ed Tapia, King Flores. Standing from left to right: Jaime Ocampo, Norma Camunay, Brgy. Capt. Art Contreras, Roy Carandang, Hugh Nguyen, Raymond Arcega, Gwen Pimentel Gana, Luigi Gana, Coylee Gamboa, Andrew Moncal.

Pimentel Center @1: 'Creative Destruction' and Local Governance

By Dean Ed Tapia



Dean Edson Tapia cites the trailblazing and innovative undertakings of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance at the University of Makati.

Economist Joseph Schumpeter once said that the real driver of development is innovation, his thesis finding more colour and meaning in his concept of 'creative destruction' – a process that accompanies radical change and transformation.

This Schumpeterian construct finds astounding resonance in the Pimentel Centre for Local Governance at the University of Makati as it turns a year older. After its inaugural lecture in September 2010, the Centre's work through the leadership of former Senator Nene Pimentel (after whom

the Centre is named) has taken it to different parts of the county – bringing the same message of national transformation to as far north as Isabela to as far south as General Santos City via its distinctive Barangay Governance seminars, coaching sessions for LGU leaders, and many different lectures and public forums.

These engagements revolve around a similar theme earlier articulated by Schumpeter – that continuous innovations in whatever sector, in this case transformations in local governance, is sine qua non to progress and development. Hence, the Centre stresses the need for creative

destruction by an advocacy of change – in mindset, values, and technical knowledge. For example, while it is a common fare for Filipinos to regard a Punong Barangay as the lowliest official in the government, the Pimentel Centre says otherwise since he possesses powers traditionally lodged in three separate branches of government – executive, legislative, and judicial. Immediately, the process of creatively destroying traditional mindsets begins.

Judging from the Pimentel Centre's activities the past year, it could very well be said that its strategic direction and attempts

at various creative destruction effort would be geared towards two broad objectives: strengthening institutions, advocating LGUs capability building, and deepening partnerships. Internally, the Centre's recent projects reflect its organisational thrust – making institutions flourish and strengthening them. This includes launching programs that seek to build up the academic standing of the Pimentel Centre, its mother college – the College of Governance and Public Policy, and the University itself. One of the more recent projects involves submitting curricular offerings for evaluation by the Association

of Local Colleges and Universities Committee on Accreditation (ALCUA) aimed at ensuring quality education for its students. Capability building measures are embedded in the Centre's training programmes – and these have immediate impact on local governance practices and processes.

Apart from this however, the Centre has also opened the doors of the University to partnerships with different institutions, both local and foreign. This, according to Professor Raymund John P Rosuelo, a Fellow at the Pimentel Centre, is borne out of the need to 'take the University to greater heights' – by being involved in social initiatives that make a difference. Hence, the Centre has been closely working with institutions such as the Philippine Councilors League (PCL), the national organisation of all incumbent local legislators at the city and municipality level, the Zuellig Family Foundation (ZFF), a leading NGO for public health governance training, research, and extension, and the Makati Green Urban Design Centre (MGUDC), an outfit designed to promote the preservation of environmental consciousness through more open spaces and green eco-projects.

If these endeavours point to the shape of things to come – then the University of Makati must brace itself – for the Pimentel Centre is just beginning, and as Dr Jaime G Ocampo (Fellow, Pimentel Centre) says, borrowing Frank Sinatra's famous hit – the best is yet to come!

Reforming Public Administration for Good Governance

By Alex Brillantes Jr.

A cursory appreciation of contemporary print and broadcast media will reveal deep distrust in public administration and governance institutions today. Corruption, violence, hatred – many of these couched in the rhetoric of good governance – dominate the discourse. However, we believe there is hope. That is why there are emerging institutions – such as the Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG) and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) based at the University of Makati (UMak) – that have done and continue to do their work in restoring trust in government in general, and local governments in particular by continuously advocating for reform in various areas of governance.

This essay suggests areas of

reform in public administration to bring about improved governance. Taking off from earlier studies we have done at the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG), and our continuing work in the PILG, we offer the following areas that may be targeted for reform. These are in the following areas: institutions, structures and processes; paradigms, mindsets and behavior; leadership and political will; and citizen engagement. These areas of reform should be united and moving towards a common vision.

Institutions, Structures and Processes

Reforms should have an enabling framework. This is provided for by the legal and politico-administrative environment. Indeed for reforms to be effective, they have to have the appropriate legal and constitutional basis. However, experience has shown that many times laws have to be updated and changed. Processes need to be streamlined. This is imperative not only because of the need to take cognizance of developments brought about by a rapidly changing environment – such as globalization including global warming, international trade and borderless economies, terrorism, telecommunications technology, etc. For



Vice President Jejomar Binay and Prof Nene Pimentel cut the ribbon during the Inauguration of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance.

instance, traditional ways of running administrative procedures in the bureaucracy have to be updated and adopt modern information communications technologies and computers to be more efficient and responsive. At the local level, the Local Government Code had to be enacted to provide the enabling environment for local governments to be more autonomous under a decentralized framework. Reorganizing the bureaucracy for results, streamlining procedures, say in obtaining business permits and licensing at the local level, is an institutional reform that essentially change and improve the so called “rules of the game” to be more appropriate and updated. A major challenge though of institutional reform is implementation. This is addressed in the other areas of reform.

Active Citizen Engagement

Reforms to be meaningful and sustained cannot – and should not – be always top-down, or driven from the top. In order to

be sustained, the people, the citizens, should own them. This can only be done if they have been involved from the start through formal and informal consultations. It is imperative to listen to them, to hear their voices. Participation of people will never go out of fashion. Ownership of reform is key. The test of good leadership is to see what will happen when the leader is pulled out. Will the reforms initiated be sustained? Will they continue even without the leader? This is why the active engagement of the citizens is a major cornerstone to successful reform for responsive public administration.

Reforming institutions. Shifting paradigms and renewed values. Transformational leadership. Citizen engagement. All working towards a common vision. These are the keys to transforming public administration for good governance. These are keys to restoring trust in government.



Raiza Laurel, who lost both her legs in the 2010 bar exams bombing rallies barangay officials to continue to make a difference in the lives of their constituents

More than Money

By Nene Pimentel

As the Christmas season nears, it is perhaps timely for all of us to remember that more than money, it is love for one another that makes life worth living.

Life in this troubled world is not easy or safe for all of us.

We all have to work for a living. Or have worked in our younger days.

But whether we are still working or are in retirement, we all still have lives to live.

And until the Good Lord says our time is up, we cannot stop caring for and loving one another.

There's one important thing that must necessarily come before we can say we do care for and love one another. And that is for us to know one another.

Unless an individual is a Mother Teresa or a living saint, it is

well-nigh impossible to say we love and care for our neighbor even if we do not know one another.

How, then, do we know one another.

In a thousand and one ways. Not the least of which is to spend quality time to listen and talk with one another. And get a sense of what is important in the life of our neighbor, i.e., in our homes or in our workplaces.

Only, then, can we say we know one another. And have a concrete basis for loving one another.

More than money, it is love for one another that will make our world go round.

Then love that fuels life will be ours to give and share with one another, at least, on this little piece of God's earth that we temporarily inhabit.



Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Puno (center) receives a certificate of appreciation for his insights given at a seminar on barangay governance, emphasizing on the virtue of love of country from left: Pastor Hugh Nguyen, Program Director, Dean Ederson Tapia of the University of Makati, Prof. Nene Pimentel, Pastor King Flores.

1521 local...

Data shows the following officials who have attend to gain more insights on local governance: barangay chairmen, 207 participants; municipal officials 146 participants; barangay kagawads, 524 participants; other appointive barangay officials, 95 participants; and the rest coming from the private sector includes non-government organizations, the media, business sector, bankers association, the religious sector, jeepney and tricycle organizations.

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance is envisioned to be an internationally-recognized provider of training programs, specialized studies, and innovative certificate programs that will enhance the competence of young leaders, national executives, legislators, and local government officials.

The Institute takes its spirit and direction from the life and advocacies of former Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., an esteemed statesman and national leader.



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