



Paglaum



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BAGUIO SEMINAR OVERFLOWS



Prof. Terry Dumogho speaking at the Baguio Seminar on Barangay Governance at the University of the Cordilleras.

Word from the Center

Merry Christmas to all

The Center wishes all our readers a Merry Christmas.

Merry, of course, means happy.

And Christmas is the day when Christ was born.

To us believers in Christianity, Christmas was the day the Redeemer of the World was born.

While probably redemption originally had a limited spiritual meaning, strictly speaking, Christ's message also spoke of ministering to the physical needs especially of the 'least of our brethren'. Giving the

poor food and drink and welcoming them into our homes and visiting them when they are sick or in prison are part of the obligations of those who call ourselves Christians.

As we greet one and all, 'Merry Christmas', it may be time to ask ourselves have we internalized and externalized the meaning of Christmas?

If we are doing those things, then, without doubt, we mean every word of the phrase 'Merry Christmas'. If not, then, we should make up for our lapses.

There is still time for you and me while the Spirit still lives in us.

The seminar for Barangay officials of Baguio City last November 28 and 29 had an overflow crowd of over 200 participants.

Organized by retired airforce Col. Albert Reyes, now Barangay Captain of Palma Orbano, City Councilor Joel Alangsab, president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, and, President Ric Pama of the University of the Cordilleras, and, endorsed by City Mayor Mauricio Dumogan, the seminar originally had a confirmed attendance of less than 100 participants.

But when the one and a half day seminar began and ended, some 200 Barangay officials, NGOs, and concerned residents had actively joined in it.

Seminar topics included Barangay legislation, funding, powers and authority.

The main discussants included Prof. Terry Domugho, Prof.

Gwen P. Gana, Architech Roy Carandang, Atty. Luigi Gana, Atty. Jay de Jaresco, and, Prof. Nene Pimentel.

The participants and the resource speaker discussed specific problems affecting barangays on Baguio City.



City Councilor Joel Alangsab, Ret. Col. Albert Reyes with Prof. Nene Pimentel

In the words of many participants, the seminar was 'very interesting', 'challenging', 'very effective', and 'helpful'.

Collectively, they said, 'we came to know our shortcomings and the remedies to our problems in the delivery of public services.'

Maranaws find Seminar, 'the best' and aligned with 'Islam'

Some of the 47 participants to the Center's LGU two-full day seminar last November 25 and 26 acclaimed it as 'the best' and 'useful' they had ever joined in while the rest who were overwhelmingly Muslims found it 'enlightening' and 'aligned with the teachings of Islam' on love of country and of one another and of the need for good governance.

The participants enjoyed the presentation of Archbishop Osacar V. Cruz on Ethics as a guide to public service and private lives.

The participants also had a good discussion on the state of justice in the country with Department of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima as resource speaker. And more familiar to most of the participants was the topic: Islam in the context of Philippine democracy. The subject was opened by Dean Julkipli Wadi of the the UP Institute of Islamic Studies.

The Marawi government officials were led by Prof. Bad-

ron Paladan, Ms. Norayah Ampang, Chief of Staff of incumbent Marawi City Mayor Panaarag Salic, Tating Atar, and, Walid Salic' son of former mayor Solitario.

In her appraisal of the seminar, Ms. Ampang said that in the last 10 years she had been attending seminars, this was the best she had ever attended.

Other participants requested for more time to discuss problems of local governments and found the two-day seminar inadequate for the airing of their concerns. There was also a general sentiment for the seminar to be brought to Mindanao so that more people could benefit from it.

While the use of Visayan was appreciated by most, some participants from Luzon felt 'left out' of the discussion on barangay revenue and budgeting.

Aside from Ethics, the participants also heard presentations on the evolution of the barangay by Atty. Gwen P. Gana,



May be seen from right: Prof. Paladan Badron, Walid Salic, Norayah Ampang.

Barangay budgeting and legislation by Prof. Terry Domugho, SAHIG by King Flores, Katarungang Pambarangay, Atty. Luigi Gana, Power and Authority by Roy Carandang, federalism, corruption in government, and principles in good governance by Prof. Nene Pimentel, and the powers and duties of the Barangay by Atty. Jay de Jaresco.

Some participants suggested

adding one more day to the seminar as they wanted more topics of local governance discussed.


PILG/PCLG officials and staff including Dr. Norma Camunay, Hugh Nguyen, Coylee Gamboa, Liza Ting, Clarisse Aquino, Maelyn Calizo, Shiela Poblete, Beng Cuevas, Tony Alarba, and Nelson de los Santos helped make the seminar a success.



From (L-R): Cris Uy, Hugh Nguyen, Nene Pimentel, Ibrahim A. Mamao, Prof. Paladan Badron and Ms. Liza Ting.



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

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The Center's Valuable Contribution to the Nation

(Statement of Sen. Bongbong Marcos at the Essay Contests Awarding Rites, December 9, 2011 at the University Mini Theater)

I am proud to participate in the awarding ceremonies and to award personally this year's winners of the maiden essay contest of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance as your Chairman of the Senate Committee on Local Government,

The Pimentel Center for Local Governance, as it is, already makes a valuable continuing contribution to the country with its sworn ideal of giving specialized education on leadership and local government to local officials.

But the Pimentel Center takes it further and widens the normal scope of its intended recipients and reaches out to the college students of University of Makati ("U-MAK") through this essay-writing contest.

For me, the benefits of this exercise are three-fold of course, the participants are honed in their capacity for critical thinking and their capacity for verbal expression in the English language.

Also, as in any contest, the crème de la crème are rewarded with generous material benefits and scholastic merit.

More importantly, the brave participating college student are, at an early age, introduced to and immersed in subjects about local governance – subjects that are not usually offered in the college



Sen. Bongbong Marcos speaking at the awarding ceremonies of the Center's Essay contests on the barangay.

curriculum.

And herein lies its uniqueness.

What's on the menu for this year's contest?

For the freshmen and sophomores, The topic was "The Role of the Barangay in the Transformation of a Nation". While for the juniors and seniors, the topic was "The Importance of the Katarungang Pambarangay in the People's Search for Justice".

Truly, these topics would sound like Greek to most college students. But these brave participants nonetheless spared what would otherwise have been their free time in order to join this endeavor and learn a new language, if you will, of the local government. This is why, I admire all of you, dear students and participants. Win or lose, you all deserve our applause.

Your having joined is not for naught.

Actually, these topics are not at all just lofty and hifa-

luting concepts, as many of you may have thought prior to joining this contest. Rather, these are valuable information about the inner workings of the most basic yet very important local government unit: the barangay, which all of us here are part, member and constituent.

I guess the university leadership and the administrators of the Pimentel Center would not disagree with me that the true objective of this exercise, true to the mission of the center, was really for the participants to appreciate the barangay as a potent and efficient vehicle for the delivery not only of basic services to the people, such as health and safety, but also of basic justice.

In the process, the student could appreciate that their barangays really have more to offer them than the usual stereotyped services in the minds of our youth, such as the pa-liga or pa-bingo ng barangay, or nowadays, dance contest or rap contest.

Best of all, the students could better appreciate the power of their votes and the implications and possibilities brought by their rights of suffrage. Many of you will already become 18 years old by the time we hold national and local elections in 2013. And armed with these vital information about our barangays, you could already understand the importance of registering as a voter and of voting wisely. Who knows, some of you may even be inspired to work to become leaders in your own barangays as well.

I could go on forever on these topics. But I won't make my message long, lest I return this essay contest to an oratorical contest! Let me just say again that I am very proud of you. Keep up the good work. Keep on reading. Keep on writing. Keep on Improving.

Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you very much for your kind indulgence.

The Winning Essays...

Summarized by Coylee Gamboa

Barangay quells gang war

by Reuben James Ramos

Gang wars in our barangay used to wake me up around 2:00 o'clock in the morning. I felt a mixture of compassion for the misguided youths and anger both at the fact that nobody seemed to care and my inability to solve the problem. I also didn't care when I knew little about the power of the barangay to bring about change or transformation.

People concerned with national transformation should start working for it in their respective barangays first because the Philippines has more than 42,000 barangays. Working towards the same goal, they could transform our nation.

How? Let me explain with an acronym:

T — Think and decide faster

because the scope [of the problems] is not that wide

R — Responsible for the needs of its residents

A — Address people's needs immediately

N — Nearer than our national government

S — See what's really needed in the place

F — Foundation of the nation

O — Order and peace are easily met

R — Render services that the national government devolved

M — Manage its constituents better

The word barangay was derived from balangay, a Malayo-Polynesian sailboat. Today, we can describe it as a sailboat for national trans-



Reuben James Ramos, 1st prize winner Essay Writing Category A, with Sen. Bongbong Marcos

formation. With everyone involved and doing our parts, our barangays can sail to national transformation.

I still wake up at 2:00 o'clock in the morning, not because of gang wars, but to savor the silence and serenity of

a peaceful and growing community. Thanks to a working barangay, a barangay that is willing to transform for good, a barangay that is doing its best to help attain national transformation.

BARANGAY: Where people make a nation

by Helen Nguyen

It is the people that make a nation, not a nation that makes a people. Pop icon Mi-



Helen Nguyen, 2nd prize winner of Essay Writing Category A.

chael Jackson sang the anthem for change in his generation with the lyrics, "if you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make the change." He stumbled upon a simple truth that continues to affect generations [of activists]. Transformation comes from you. Transformation comes from me.

The EDSA People Power Revolution of 1986 exemplified this process profoundly. Yearning for transformation, the people united and demanded change....The problem is we can't have a people power revolution every time we want change in the government and by the government.

This is where the barangay comes in....It is through the

barangay that our voices can be heard....Not only does the barangay have the power to listen to the cries of its people, it also has the power to act upon it, as provided by Section 384 of the Local Government Code.

No other country boasts of a government unit as basic and yet as empowered as the barangay, which exercises executive, legislative and judicial powers, as granted by the Local Government Code of 1991....Normally, the more power a government unit has, the less time it has to listen to the people. It is amazing, therefore, how simple and accessible the barangay, our grassroots governmental system, is to me, to you and to the people.

I began with the premise that it is the role of the peo-

ple of this nation to instigate transformation. Let me end with the conclusion that it is the role of the barangay to implement transformation. We have seen, thanks to the Local Government Code, the barangay has the power to implement transformation within its own community and the power to echo the people's cry for transformation to the national government.

As the heartbeat of the people, the barangay serves a pivotal role in national transformation. As the people's pulse quickens and the heart pounds louder and louder, no one can ignore the people's cry for transformation. Indeed, it is through the barangay that we are heard.

Barangay justice settles rent law

by Valerie Grace Antatico

In a developing country like the Philippines, access to justice is one of the major problems encountered by the people. With [26.5%] of the people living below the poverty line, poor people consid-



Valerie Grace Antatico, 2nd prize winner Essay Writing Category B.

er it impractical to file a case and settle disputes in court because doing so would cost them a fortune. They choose to be physically and emotionally maltreated instead of malnourished — which might explain the [perception] that “justice is only for the rich.” Those who go to court often give up because the progress of court proceedings is very sluggish, often taking more than a year to resolve.

The Katarungang Pambarangay or Barangay Justice System provides a way for residents to settle their disputes without resorting to the courts and has improved the flow of justice in our country. Poor people, who do not have the funds for settling arguments in court, may bring their complaints to the barangay office, where the filing fee is cheaper than the cost of going to court. Justice at the barangay level is also easier to obtain because the dispute

may be settled in the place where they live or work, thereby enabling them to save on transportation costs. Unlike legal cases, under the Barangay Justice System, complaints may be settled in a matter of days or weeks.

My father had a dispute with our landlady who wanted to raise our rent illegally and who tried to intimidate us into vacating the premises. Their quarrel landed them in the barangay office in Cembo where we lived at that time. After three days, they reached an amicable settlement with the help of the Barangay Captain who mediated in their dispute. We retained the house and the landlady apologized for her behavior.

I believe that the people can find justice when the barangay they live in exercises the power it has under the law and that the negative perception about the inequality of justice can be erased by the implementa-

tion of the Katarungang Pambarangay. If the Barangay Justice System sets a terrible example, the nation’s judicial performance will simultaneously fall short.

The Barangay Justice System has the power and ability to provide all of us with real justice, where there are no categories such as rich or poor. Since its authority comes from the community, bias and inequitable decisions may be avoided because the residents have confidence that the persons they appointed as lupons have the capability to bring peace and justice in their barangay.

The Katarungang Pambarangay is the first step towards attaining this basic human right that we deserve: justice. In our quest for justice, the Barangay Justice System is the answer to the question — how can we attain justice that is accessible, fair and timely.

Great things come from small beginnings.

by Dianne Maris Lagumen

The Katarungang Pambarangay or Barangay Justice System is not just a required ... system to be implemented in every barangay but an important system which takes place in little ways or processes. It...promotes good values among the members of the community; it makes people... aware of what’s going on in the search for justice within their community; it provides every individual equal access to justice; it encourages every citizen in the community to [take part in] fair decision-making; it allows the members, especially the elders... to be part of the justice sys-

tem as they are respected by their fellowmen; it...alters the misconceptions...of the people about attaining justice; it [renews] the trust of the people that justice still exists; and lastly it [helps] people understand how real justice works, even in simple things.

My mother and I accompanied her friend, a pawnbroker, who decided to have a concern [about an outstanding debt] resolved through the Barangay Justice System. It was a great opportunity for me to become aware of the small but

great means we have for justice in our community. I met the punong barangay (barangay head); the Lupong Tagapamayapa (Peace Council); the Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo (Conciliation Team) and the persons involved in the case....There were no judges nor juries, only referees. The complainant and respondent were responsible for their decisions, solutions and agreements....

My mother’s friend found justice... and I was [enlightened and glad] to be part of a community where justice exists at the barangay level.



Dianne Maris Lagumen, 3rd prize winner Essay Writing Category B.

NATIVITY-HAN (BELEN) WINNERS GET PRIZES

By Clarisse Aquino



1st Prize winner, DESIGN CENTER FOR NATION BUILDING (DCNB) located at 4th floor, Academic Building 2.

The Design Center for Nation Building of the University received last December 9 the first place prize of P15,000 as the best among the departmental entries to the Nativity-han contest.

The contest was sponsored by the Pimentel Center in an attempt to 'put Christ back into the center of Christmas.'

Prof. Nene Pimentel said that among other things, the Center encouraged to stage the contest was the 'creeping secularization' of the meaning of Christmas.

He said that now material gifts, pine trees, fake snow decors, and, even Rudolf the Red nosed Rein-

deer, and, the like readily represent the Christmas image instead of Christ, the baby savior born in a manger in Bethlehem.

The second prize of P10,000 was won by the College of Technology Management.

The third prize of P5,000 went to the College of Arts and Sciences and Education.

Upon suggestion of Roy Carandang, an Architect by profession and a pastor by avocation, the Nativity-han contest also gave a special award for ecological designs embedded in the entries.

The Design Center for



2nd Prize winner, COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT, (CTM) located at Ground floor Academic Building 1.

Nation Building romped away with the ecological prize of P4000.

The prizes were provided by the offices of Senators Sonny Trillanes and Koko Pimentel.

Prof. Acel German spearheaded the Nativity-*han* contest.

The Board of Judges was composed of King Flores, chairman, and, Roy Carandang, Cris Uy, Hugh Nguyen, and, Hans Ting.



3rd Prize winner, COLLEGE OF ARTS SCIENCES AND EDUCATION (CASE), located at 2nd floor Academic Building1.



Sen. Sonny Trillanes IV, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization and Committee on Amateur Sports Competitiveness.



Sen. Koko Pimentel III, Chairman of the Senate Committee for Electoral Reform and Committee on Games and Sports.



From L-R: Atty. Gwen Gana, Mr. Adrian Hapa of DCNB, Mr. Moner Raguindin of CTM, Ms. Cristeta Evangelio of CASE.



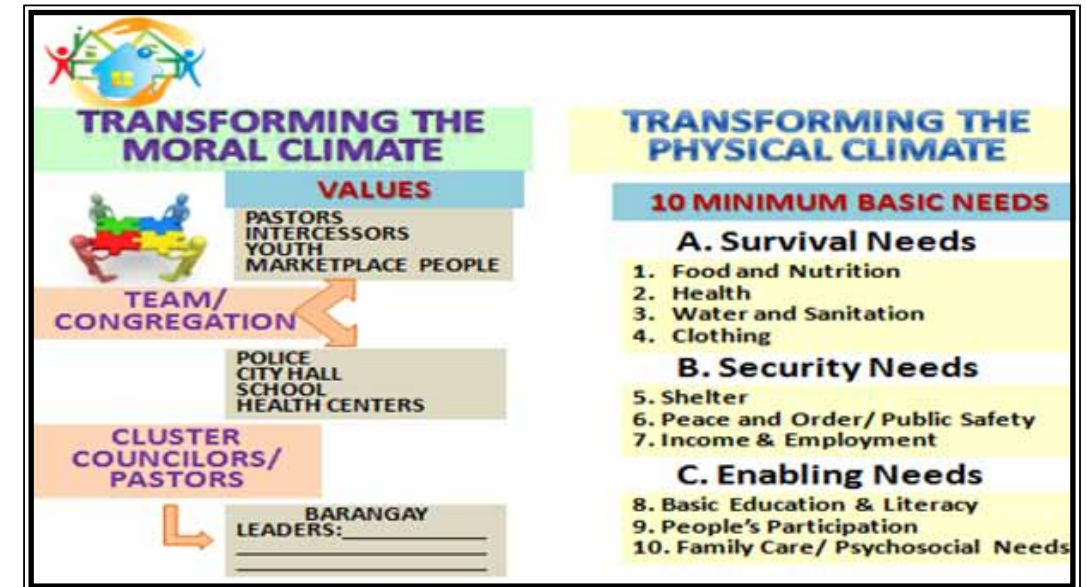
Barangay Ko, Mahal Ko! Adopting the Barangay For National Transformation

By Architect Roy Carandang

EVERY FILIPINO IS A MEMBER OF A BARANGAY. If our own picture of a barangay is confined to peace-keeping groups and tanods, then our understanding of it has much to be desired. The PILG (Pimentel Institute for Local Governance) rises to this need to echo vital information on the roles and authorities of our barangay officials and other NGOs, and to train, equip and empower them so that each one will begin to grasp his role in the transformation of our nation.

Every Filipino has a calling and duty to brave for national transformation to be realized but only a few have taken it to heart, much less understood it.

Pertinent to this call was the launching of "Barangay Ko, Mahal Ko" (BKMK) as an avenue for these train-



ings to be translated to everyday life. It also seeks to evaluate our efforts as we endeavor to accelerate the eradication of systemic poverty which is the very heart of transforming a nation.

HINDI MAHIRAP ANG PILIPINO, (SAPAGKAT MAYAMAN ATING BANSA) DUMADAAN

LAMANG SA MALING SISTEMA NA SIYANG NAGPAPAHIRAP.

BKMK seeks to promote a response for everyone to love our barangay. It rallies groups and organizations to uphold and celebrate a character theme each month for 3 years ef-

fecting paradigm shifts. The Minimum Basic Need (MBN) survey will be the gauge board in the flight of this program since it will measure and record levels of systemic poverty based on the unattended basic needs of the community.



The launching of a proto type in Tanauan City, Batangas in partnership with TEAM (Tanauan Evangelical Alliance of Ministries).

De Lima takes a stand

By Jay Dejaresco



DOJ Sec. Leila De Lima

No one in recent history has taken a bold stand against enforcing a directive of the high court of the land.

Department of Justice Secretary Leila De Lima recently landed in a legal controversy over her decision not to enforce a Supreme Court temporary restraining order (TRO) against the government's efforts to prevent former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her husband from leaving the country.

Amidst a flurry of criticisms from legal corners that hers was a stroke of defiance against the high court, Secretary De Lima brushed them off and maintained she has a higher obligation to promote the interests of the Filipino people.

Secretary De Lima was invited to speak before the participants of the seminar on barangay governance initiated by the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance at the University of Makati last November 25.

"There was really something wrong with the TRO," De Lima candidly told participants as she explained the government's decision to continue enforcing the Watch List Order (WLO) the former president, despite the issuance of a TRO by the Supreme Court.

She asked why would the Supreme Court issue a TRO

and therefore allow the former president to leave the country in the meantime, when precisely the main issue of the petition is whether or not the former president should be allowed to leave the country.

She wondered had the former president left, what was there to resolve?

Wanted: More teeth for Barangay Justice

By Jay Dejaresco

There is a suggestion that the barangay justice system under the local government code, known as Katarungang Barangay should have more teeth in the resolution of settlement disputes among barangay residents.

The katarungang pambarangay is seen as an inexpensive way where residents of the barangay can settle disputes without resorting to court litigation which entails more money.

However, barangay officials, enforcers of the barangay justice system complain their hands are tied preventing them from becoming effective instruments in resolving disputes amicably.

One of their concerns is the perennial non-appearance of parties, or the disregard of

Why was the executive department not heard first, before the high court issued the TRO?

These questions, De Lima said prompted her to decide to continue enforcing the DOJ watchlist order, considering the department then had not received an official copy of the TRO, and there was no showing that the conditions making the TRO effective, were met.

De Lima said she had to make the judgment call, all in the interests of promoting justice and the interests of the Filipino people.

De Lima also acknowledged a Divine force behind many events that has transpired in the nation's recent political history.

She mentioned the case of Senator Aquilino Koko Pimen-

tel, Jr. for whom she acted as legal counsel.

"I took up Koko's case pro bono because I had personal knowledge of what was happening in Mindanao," she explained.

De Lima said little did she know it would unravel to become a four-year struggle that eventually led to Koko Pimentel being suddenly thrust into the Senate last August.

She attributed these events as part of the God's mysterious hands moving so good will triumph.

De Lima was a private law practitioner before being appointed as Commissioner of Human Rights.

She was later appointed Secretary of Justice by President Aquino.

notices issued by the Lupon.

This concern was aired by Joel A. Alangsab president of the Liga ng mga Barangay in Baguio City and an incumbent city councillor at the Baguio seminar

If their notices are disregarded, then the aims of the barangay justice system are defeated.

The remedy of barangay officials is to seek the aid of the court in imposing indirect contempt against disobeying parties.

However, filing petitions for contempt in court entails filing fees, which prohibit barangay officials from invoking.

Alangsab proposed that perhaps waiving the filing fees in court can pave the way in a stricter enforcement of the ba-

barangay notices and orders, specially against parties who disregard such orders.

The Liga also suggested that the Katarungang Pambarangay may be provided with a free legal counsel to advise or defend them in their performance of official actions.

Barangay officials welcomed the seminars on barangay empowerment conducted by the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and Pimentel institute for Leadership and Governance, as it enhanced their skills and knowledge in implementing the relevant provision for the local government code.

The Katarungang Pambarangay was discussed extensively by Atty. Luigi Gana at the seminar.

Contributing to National Transformation

By Prof. Raymund John Rosuelo



Prof. Raymund John Rosuelo

Interacting with local officials in what may be labeled as a journey towards national transformation has been an eye-opening experience for me. It had given me an opportunity to see whether the theoretical expectations that I have about their political and administrative practices, honed through years of study of their political behavior, are actually supported by the realities on the ground. As a political scientist, empirical verification is a very important activity. This, however, is something that is very difficult to do since opportunities for engaging in any form of theory testing are often quite rare. As such, the program that features a mobile classroom approach developed by the University of Makati (Umak) and the Philippine Councilors

League-Legislative Academy (PCL-LA) offers a treasure trove of primary data on the roles of local officials in development that will surely make any social scientist salivate at the prospects of strengthening/rectifying their theoretical foundations.

We have often been blitzed by sensational cases of abusive officials that have often caused many an observer to become jaded with politicians in general. Because of this, there is now the prevailing thinking that politicians are there to simply recoup their investments during the campaign season at the expense of the people's welfare. This however, seems not to be the case. Contrary to theoretical expectations most of these local officials

recognize their important role in transforming their communities. They are not predatory as sometimes they have been often depicted in the literature.

The journey however is not without its challenges. For all though, there is recognition on the part of politicians that they are there

to serve their constituencies. Their priorities have to be realigned to programs and projects that will have more far reaching impacts on the well-being of the people. I have noticed that most of them think that erecting highly visible and grand public infrastructures that are often equated with development even though it did not actually improve the lives of the people significantly. This irrational policy can be readily understood given the short electoral cycle that we have condemns most these local officials to projects that they can easily milk for immediate political mileage.

Weaning local officials from this myopic thinking represents the most significant challenge in governance education. This can be accomplished by mak-

ing them realize that developmental goals and short term political goals can be harmonized to the extent that it can be used a viable political platform that will resonate with a significant part of the electorate for the political leaders that champion it. It is inspiring to know that there have been notable cases wherein some LGUs where local officials had emphasized health on their development agenda and at the same time consistently win in successive elections. While there may be some holdouts who do not think that health should be prioritized, the acceptance of many other officials that local investments in health is the way to go if we are to have sustainable development. Most satisfying is the fact that such insights were developed after these local officials had attended a seminar conducted by the University of Makati.

As such, I cannot help but feel elated and be quite hopeful regarding the future of our country. The emergence of local leaders who are willing and committed in embarking on genuinely meaningful developmental undertakings marks a significant milestone in the capacity building program of the University of Makati.

SULU SULTAN SEEKS GOV'T ASSISTANCE FOR SABAH CLAIM

Sultan Esmail Kiram II discussed at the Center with Prof. Nene Pimentel last December 1 some ways by which the issue of the ownership of the Sultanate of Sulu of Sabah and the Spratleys may be espoused by the government on behalf of the people.

The Sultan and Pimen-

tel reviewed the historical and documentary bases of the ownership of the Sultanate over the controverted islands. Sabah is claimed by Malaysia while the Spratleys are claimed by several countries, including China, Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Both the Sultan and Pimentel expressed the hope



Prof. Nene Pimentel and Sulu Sultan Esmail Kiram II

that the issues would be settled diplomatically and peacefully to promote the

stability of the region and for the good of all the parties concerned.

Thoughts on Religion and Peace

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

Part 2

I offer here a third way. (1) inspired by our faith, (we) must have the right to speak out on issues that concern us and in the name of our beliefs.

(2) At the same time our voice cannot predominate over the basic democratic system that functions equally for all, irrespective of those of faith or of none.

(3) debate the nature of democracy.

I find it hard to define democracy by reference to one faith.

The essence of democracy is that it is (a) pluralistic; (b) It is inherently secular, even if rooted in cultures that are profoundly religious.

This is where democracy-friendly religion really means something very important in the way society is governed.

It is about

- (a) free media;
- (b) freedom of expression;

- and
- (c) about freedom of religion;
- (d) an independent judiciary and
- (e) the rule of law and
- (f) even about free markets albeit with appropriate government intervention and regulation.

Political pluralism and religious pluralism go together.

Religion matters.

Faith motivates and compels.

If democracy is to function effectively therefore, religion itself has to embrace the open mind not the closed mind.

This open attitude of mind cannot be inculcated by politicians alone. It has to be undertaken, in part at least by those of faith. They have to provide a) the platform of interfaith understanding and respect; and b) the theological and scriptural justification for the open mind.

What is Ethics?

Excerpts from talk of Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz at Nov. 25 Seminar



Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz

A. General Ethics:

1. Code of Conduct:

Collection of principles/norms of action for practical observance about the good to do or the evil to avoid.

2. Philosophical Value System:

Logical analysis and practical application of distinction between the right or wrong option/action to take or

to avoid.

3. Series of moral Standard:

Set of rules of practical behavior as promoted by reason and prescribed belief as virtuous.

B. Domestic Ethics:

1. Spousal Ethics:

One bed. One table. One Roof. (Unity. Community. Communion.)

2. Conjugal Ethics:

Sharing of burdens and delights (Collaboration)

3. Parental Ethics:

Paternal and maternal roles (Integration)

C. Social Ethics:

1. Social nature:

Family. Community. Society.

2. Social order:

Truth. Justice. Peace

3. Social Justice:

Commutative. Legal. Distributive.

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Ms. Yolanda Stern

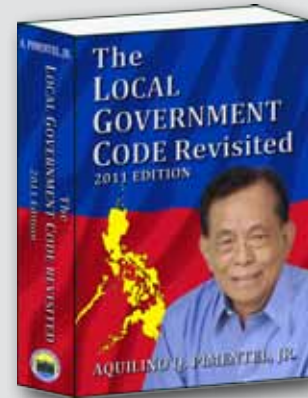
Ms. Yolanda Stern, a well-known philanthropist based in San Francisco, said she will send books for the Center in a call she made on Prof. Nene Pimentel last December 2.

Ms. Stern also gave a copy of a book on Nur Misuari, written by her husband, Dr. Tom Stern to Nene Pimentel.

Born in Zamboanga City, Ms. Stern graduated from and taught for a time at the UCLA.

Prof. Pimentel said there are plans for Ms. Stern to partner with the Center in some projects that are still being formulated.

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