



Paglaum



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

CONTRASTING VIEWS: “Sendong” vs. LGUs

From Dumaguete

By Jay Dejaresco

From Cagayan De Oro

By Herbie Gomez



In Barangay Tubtobon Sibulan Negros Oriental, punong barangay

Daisy Inoferio (in green shirt extreme left) led in the distribution of donated relief items. Here she holds the list of recipients who were victims of typhoon Sendong. She called out the names, and made sure they were the actual recipients or family members of the victims. She also lent the barangay vehicle to carry and transport the relief goods from the packing headquarters to their barangay, and even to other disaster-hit barangays.

Last December, my home city of Dumaguete was hard hit by typhoon Sendong.

Many died in the watery onslaught, including a family whose six members perished.

Homes near two rivers that traversed the city were washed away.

Immediately, we hatched a relief effort to help the vic-

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Sendong devastates Cagayan De Oro.

Word from The Center

As we begin the new year, the name of our newsletter reasserts its significance: a vigorous and boundless hope for a better tomorrow for our people.

Calamities unheard of by our forbears that massively hit Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Dumaguete preempted the coming of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse that is graphically depicted in the New Testament.

But **Paglaum** appears to be an indelible trait of the Filipino. And so, amid so much devastation and loss of lives, we kneel and pray - and smile - knowing that the Almighty is here with

us. And he will enable us to cope with our pains and losses and strive again for a better tomorrow.

At birth, the Filipino appears to have always been conjoined with a twin from which no disaster, modern surgical skills or technology can tear him apart.

And that inseparable twin of the Filipino is named **Paglaum** - hope.

With hope, he or she keeps the Faith. And with Faith, Love for his fellow human beings invariably strides by his side.

That sums up the Center's New Year's hope for all.

(Editor's note: The following are excerpts from an editorial of Herbie Gomez of the Mindanao Gold Star Daily, January 4, 2012, a local daily in Cagayan de Oro City. The excerpts are published with his permission. Bitter statements have been expurgated to make the views a little more civil. The editorial shows to some extent the resentment of some of the people in the city over what they perceived to have been the neglect of the city government to respond more proactively to the devastation caused by the typhoon Sendong in mid-December of last year to the people and the city community).

- NONE of Mayor Dongkoy Emano's political enemies ordered Typhoon Sendong to come and cause the floods. Neither did they tell the mayor to be caught with his pants down.
- If we hear his political enemies making noise, it's because they are citizens and

Continue in Page 4

Anything goes

By Clarisse Aquino

An exciting event on the Peace Process that the Round Table Forum of the Center and the CGPP will tackle is set for February.

Eminent Moro personalities are lined up to present their views on the issue.

Time & venue will be announced in due time.

River basin maps by Dr. Steeve Godilano, our environmental expert, is now in demand - after Sendong hit the country.

The demand and the use of the maps should

have been done BEFORE Sendong came to town.

Anyway ... life goes on and hope (Paglaum) springs eternal in the lives of our people.

In sum, to the LGUs especially, let's be more prepared next time around.

It's good that the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines, an NGO on environment, led by Archbishop Ledesma, Chris Monsod and other concerned citizens are keeping the issues of Climate Change and Geo-Hazards on the top burner of the nation's agenda.

Climate Change Group Meets at The Center

By Maelyn Calizo



(L-R) Christian Monsod, Archbishop Tony Ledesma, Prof. Nene Pimentel, Dr. Steve Godilano and Bel Formanes (Mark Amor, not in picture).

NGO advocates met on the afternoon of last January 2 at the Center to discuss how to prepare local communities and reduce devastations brought about by climate change.

Led by Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Tony Ledesma and environmental activist Christian Monsod, the group discussed the impact of the changing weather conditions that have devastated many parts of the country, including Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Dumaguete cities

recently.

At the meeting, environmental expert Dr. Steve Godilano complained that recommendations made by scientists to prepare for and mitigate natural calamities brought about by climate change have not been taken seriously by the government.

A Filipino who has done extensive studies on how local communities may anticipate, prepare for and reduce natural calamity devastations, Dr. Godilano's proposals to mitigate environmental

damage have been adopted by a number of nations in Asia.

Mark Amor, a lawyer specializing on social issues commented that activities like irresponsible mining and illegal logging that are proliferating in many provinces and cities worsen the situation of areas that are regularly hit by more than 20 typhoons that sweep the country annually.

Prof. Aquilino Pimentel who directs the activities of the Center suggested that the Department of Education should be required to get involved in the reforestation of the nation by having every first grader entering school every year to plant and care for a tree until

he or she graduates from the 7th grade.

In that way, millions of trees would help reduce pollution and other natural disasters.

The group will submit its recommendations after a more thorough study to the DENR and other government agencies concerned with climate change.



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DENR Sec. Paje on Climate, Geo-Hazards

By Sheila Poblete



DENR Sec. Ramon Paje

DENR Secretary Ramon Paje will be the first guest discussant at the 'Round Table Forum' organized by the Pimentel Center for Local Governance in collaboration with the College of Governance and Public Policy of the University of Makati on January 31.

The Secretary who has adopted an anti-logging and anti-illegal mining position in his department

will face a select group of faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students and NGO activists involved in issues relative to climate change.

Bel Fomanes, the secretary of the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines expressed optimism that the forum will heighten the awareness of the participants on the need to prepare for the onslaughts of climate changes typified by the recent Sendong typhoon.

The typhoon devastated whole barangays in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, killed thousands of residents and inflicted tremendous economic losses in the said areas.

In a related development, Sen. Koko Pimentel



Sen. Teofisto "TG" Guingona III

and Sen. Toti Guingona organized a Mindanao Summit on Climate Change and Geo-Hazards that is set for February 2012.

Several governors, mayors, barangay and other local government officials have indicated their intention to participate in the conference.

Sen. Koko Pimentel said that the Summit which



Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, S.J. supports, will focus on the need for positive activities needed to prepare the Mindanao communities to meet natural calamities arising from climate changes and Geo-hazards.

The conference will be held in Cagayan de Oro at a venue that will be announced later.

More room for PCLG at UMak

By Clarisse Aquino

The Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG) has expanded its facilities at the University of Makati to provide more room for its seminars and other academic activities.

At the fourth floor of the University of Makati administration building,

where the PCLG holds office, the space across the lobby is undergoing renovation which will be used for seminars. There will also be restrooms, a stock room and a kitchen.

The Center's library will also be placed in the expanded areas at the fourth floor.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, as the special guest during the launching of the Center noticed the need for more space for the center's activities, prompting him to offer the entire floor for activities of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and Pimentel Institute for Leadership and

Governance.

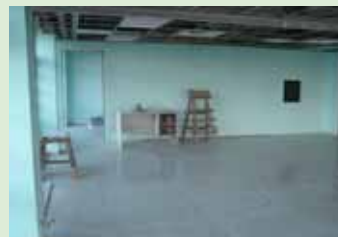
Aside from the regular seminars for barangay officials, the center has lined up more activities this year like roundtable discussions on significant national issues with government leaders and the members of the academe.



Library



Seminar Rooms



Seminar Room Extension



Kitchenette

From Dumaguete

tims cope with their loss.

We appealed for help to friends from all over, specially those based abroad who have roots in Dumaguete and Sillman University. They were all too willing to provide funds and donations in kind like clothings and medicines.

I went home to help organize a relief group, aside from many others who also mobilized to provide help.

Our group acted as coordinators to ensure the donations were distributed with dispatch to the typhoon victims.

In order to facilitate an efficient system of distribution, we identified the barangays that were hit the hardest by the killer flash floods.

These were the barangays where the rivers passed through from the mountain leading to the open sea.

The list identifying the barangays, and the victims were then given by the punong barangay and barangay kagawads.

The barangay officials not

only had the list of victims, they also had the names of family members, who were dead or missing, and their temporary relocation sites.

Using the data, we met the barangay officials who led in the distribution because they were familiar with the identities of the victims.

Barangay officials volunteered to pack the relief items.

With the donated funds, we purchased rice, canned goods and noodles, soap, aside from the used clothings.

The barangays provided their official vehicles to transport the relief goods from our headquarters to the evacuation sites

When we arrived at the evacuation centers, the barangay officials took over.

To do relief operations on the ground, the barangay officials are indispensable partners because they know who their constituents.

We saw the power of the barangay at work during the relief operations.



Punong barangay Virgilio Valencia of Barangay Looc Sibulan Negros Oriental, also worst hit since it is near the Okoy river that overflowed, leads in the distribution of donated medicines to mothers in his barangay who lost everything including their homes because of typhoon Sendong.

From CDO

have a right to vent just like many angry Cagayanons.

- City hall was virtually non-existent. It did not respond the way it should right after the floods. It ceased to properly function and people were practically left on their own for days. Until now, city hall has not been functioning normally—the roads are still either muddy or dusty and there's uncollected trash everywhere.
- The problem was, the mayor didn't see it coming despite the warnings from the environment department and the government's weather bureau, and when it finally did, he was struck dumb.
- The effects of Sendong were overwhelming that the mayor stopped thinking clearly. (When) Sendong exploded in his face, the mayor did not know what to do. So everyone down the line, while waiting for orders, stopped moving. Simply put, Sendong made city hall stop functioning like a government.
- This became very evident when the mayor ordered bodies dumped at the landfill. No one who thinks clearly would ever do such a horrific thing. For a moment, he attempted to pass the blame on to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). He said the bodies were brought to the dumpsite because the NBI recommended it. The NBI, however, strongly denied it. But even then, assuming that the NBI had recommended something like that, the mayor could have said "No way!"
- We-were-not-warned, my foot! Of course, you were warned, Mayor. City hall just didn't listen (or refused to listen) when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) told you and your ilk to get people out of harm's way. In 2009, DENR sent a letter to city hall and identified the dangerous places: Cala-cala, Biasong, Upper Balulang, and portions of Tibasak and Conso-

lacion. These are the areas hit hard by Sendong. What did city hall do? Nothing.

- Last September, the DENR once again called city hall's attention because of a warning from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Emano was told that Pagasa was expecting "stronger typhoons" to make landfall from September to December 2011. Reads part of the letter addressed to Mayor Emano: "These typhoons will most likely bring about heavy precipitation with possible adverse impact on local population and private and public infrastructure." What did Emano do? Nothing.
- Weeks after Sendong and the floods, city hall remains disorderly. Dr. Prospero de Vera, vice president for public affairs and director of the University of the Philippines' National Center for Public Administration and Governance Center for Policy and Executive Development, hit the nail on the head when he said the efficiency of the Iligan government under Mayor Lawrence Cruz was a big contrast to Cagayan de Oro's disorganized government that blocked efforts to help from concerned groups. De Vera said, "Cagayan de Oro is in shambles because of the local government."
- City hall failed even in the simple task of providing a center to ensure coordination of the relief operations by various groups. We are thankful to Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma for taking the initiative to set up this center last week. The bishop did what Mayor Emano should have done the morning after Sendong hit the city. City hall left the volunteers, like the survivors in evacuation centers, on their own. The volunteers filled the gap.
- Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello writes in the *Inquirer*: "Local government makes a difference. The contrast is made between Dumaguete and

Cagayan de Oro. In Dumaguete, one DILG official observed, community leaders and organizations were mobilized to meet the oncoming storm after Pagasa issued its warnings, while only few local officials were alerted for action in Cagayan de Oro City. Indeed, in the aftermath of the catastrophe, so hapless is the Cagayan de Oro city government that civil society organizations have filled the vacuum in the rescue and relief efforts. At the center of this effort is Xavier University, where we saw goods pouring in from other parts of the country as well as from international organizations being received and distributed by an impressive, well-organized effort involving hundreds of volunteers."

- It's interesting to note that neither de Vera nor Bello are Emano's political enemies. Therefore, their views are not tainted by partisan politics. De Vera and Bello have seen what many Cagayans, including the mayor's political enemies and political allies (even some relatives), are seeing.
- Partisan politics? I don't think so. The reactions are spontaneous. This typhoon (of a mayor) has been battering Cagayan de Oro since 1998!

Pastilan! (What a pity!)

DEATH TOLL: 703
MISSING: 654



House in Cagayan de Oro leaning on a concrete wall



Center with relief goods in Cagayan de Oro



Some scenes of devastation



Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel, who rushed to his home city of Cagayan de Oro City upon hearing that it was hard hit by the typhoon Sendong, assures city residents and typhoon victims of continuing assistance from government and private sources from all over the country. Photo shows Senator Pimentel (extreme right) updating Cagayan de Oro residents in an evacuation center in Barangay Macasandig, of the latest relief efforts undertaken not only by government, but all civic organizations and private groups. Beside Pimentel are Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and Barangay Chairman Aaron Neri.

A Call for Anticipatory Governance by the Barangays in the City of Parañaque

By Dr. Jaime G. Ocampo



Prof. Jaime Ocampo

When I was seven years old, I used to swim with my friends in the Parañaque river which we sometimes crossed to and from the barangays of Don Galo and La Huerta. In moments of bragadocio, we even jumped into the river from the Parañaque bridge.

We knew then that we would not be hurt because the river was clean of debris and free of pollution that could cause infectious diseases. In fact, my late father who was a fisherman always took time to have all of us, his children, enjoy boating trips from Don Galo near the sea to the river going to Sucat, which was then forested by tall bamboo trees and lush mangrove (bakawan) plants. Looking back, I could picture the pristine water of the Parañaque river as similar to that of the Loboc river in Bohol or to be biased about, even better at least in the

late 60's.

Now, the situation is far different. The natural beauty of the Parañaque river is a thing of the past. And as native of Parañaque, I am sad to admit that the exquisite blessings that was second nature to the river of Parañaque, my beloved hometown, had disappeared and filth is today associated with the river.

When the recent Tropical storm "Sendong" devastated the densely populated and vulnerable riverine settlements in Cagayan de Oro in Misamis Oriental, Iligan City in Lanao del Norte and other parts of the country, I am reminded by the flash floods and landslides caused by storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" that also flooded and caused much damage to Metro-Manila, Central and Northern Luzon.

Hence, I do not think that

I or anyone else has to remind or raise the awareness of people to the vulnerability of the residents of Parañaque to the catastrophic risk of the river overflowing again. The Parañaque river as anybody can see at its actual site or from the photos is mushrooming with shanties that are now built over parts of it or beside its riverbanks. Thus, whenever there is a heavy downpour, the excess water is prevented from flowing into the river that should normally go down to the Manila Bay. Moreover, the stench of pollution obviously caused by the irresponsible disposal of garbage or even human waste by the squatters who have settled on both sides of the river assails passersby or casual users of riverboats.

It is within this context that as a concerned citizen and taxpayer of Parañaque, I call upon all local officials, especially of the barangays of Parañaque, including Don Galo, La Huerta, Sto. Niño, San Dionisio, Wawa and Tambo to practice anticipatory governance. By doing so, they would have to pro-actively regulate the mushrooming of informal settlers along the river.

That should not be difficult to justify because the stay of the squatters along the river banks does not only affect the flow of water passing through river but it also endangers their lives and risks the loss of their properties from the ever increasing flood hazards oc-

casioned by erratic climate changes that now and then slam our country.

At the level of the barangay, it is suggested that regulations on urban dwellings especially beside waterways be strictly enforced. An anticipatory mindset not only of the local officials but of the residents concerned is vital to forestall widespread death and destruction from storms that are likely to visit our beloved city through our much abused river system of Parañaque. The anticipatory governance as a principle espoused by Osborne and Gaebler (1992) when applied would compel governments in when planning for the future to focus on prevention that is more economical and is easier to do than to reactively attend to a problem that may already be confronting the community whether it is a disaster, like flooding, or any health or environmental menace.

To repeat, the call for anticipatory governance means introducing a proactive stand on the part of the government (whether barangay or municipality/city) to govern with foresight and identify the future needs and demands of its constituents. It is also means applying the age-old adage that "prevention is better than cure" so that when calamity strikes people are ready and prepared, and will, thus, mitigate the devastation of any anticipated disaster.

Role of Spirituality in Philippine Development

By Cris Uy

Adam Smith (1776) while explaining the role of established clergies in his 'An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations' wrote that one of religion's most important contributions to the economic development process was its value as a moral enforcement mechanism. The acknowledged economic guru recognizes the role of religion and spirituality. But sad to say that today, empirical studies on the effect of spirituality in development efforts are hard to find. Religion and spirituality are often overlooked when it comes to development planning discussions. It seems that religion and spirituality, though inherently weaved in our culture and nature, have nothing to do with development. If indeed the ultimate goal of economic development is human development, then spirituality and religion should play a crucial role to achieve it. Majid Rahnema put it this way, "a reason for people's indifference to the dominant development ideology, and hence its failure, could well be the latter's utter insensitivity to this (spiritual) crucial dimension."

But what is Spirituality? While religion is generally considered an institutionalized set of beliefs and practices regarding the spiritual realm, spirituality describes the personal and relational side of those beliefs, which shape daily life. Spirituality then, as Ver Beek described, "is a relationship with the supernatural or spiritual realm that provides meaning and a basis for personal and communal reflection, decisions, and action".

Spirituality is important to development because of various reasons. First, spirituality acts as a motivational force and quality, productivity, and performance enhancer thereby accumulating "social capital" which is necessary for economic development. It is a social capital because it contributes to the building of networks among population. Spiritual person usually hang around with other spiritual people. However, spiritual capital is special in the

sense that it may produce externalities and spillover effects on government social capital as well (Khan & Bashar, 2008). When we look at history we will see the likes of Joan of Arc who rallied her people with "For God and for France" and Christopher Columbus whose primary motivation for his exploration was to "open up opportunities to take the Christian gospel to the heathen"(Allen & Allen 23)

Secondly, spirituality affects productivity through a change in mindset resulting to a change in behavior like becoming more hard working to please one's Lord, becoming more generous and loving to the poor, and honest in business dealings. For spiritual people, work is a duty to God and can be a means to glorify God. These traits, affect spiritual people's economic productivity.

Lastly, spirituality promotes honesty thus increasing the levels of trust and minimizes corruption. Good stewardship is also an advocacy of spiritual living and it encourages simple living, which would stimulate saving, investments and therefore economic growth.

Filipino spirituality has a tendency to have a negative impact in economic development too. Possible negative effects of Filipino spirituality on economic growth includes reliance on patron saints for harvest instead on what is more productive methods of planting, reliance on lottery hoping that God will answer their prayers to win instead of relying on hard work. Often times, Filipino spirituality is leading the men to spend time on religious debates than do something economically productive.

Filipino spirituality and development are seemingly inseparable. Conceptually spirituality provides believers a guideline about how to live their life, manage their resources and treat the poor, therefore it promote growth as they direct Filipinos towards good stewardship of their wealth, giving, truthfulness, discipline and hard work. Most of the empirical studies point to a positive relationship between spirituality and development.

Thoughts on Religion and Peace

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

Last Part

With the best will in the world, protective constitutional provisions ... religious and government leaders (must) educate their constituencies in religious minority rights.

A commitment to human dignity means concrete action: (a) training law enforcement officers to uphold these values, (b) teaching from primary school upwards of respect and understanding for people of other faiths, (c) religious literacy for national leaders.

Religious leaders (must) draw from their own traditions and sacred texts the values and vision that will (a) create a culture of democracy.

(b) ... defend the rights of people of other beliefs (as) a routine part of their work, just as they defend the rights of their own community.

(c) champions universal values?

The question whether the truth-claims of the monotheistic religions draw them inevitably into intransigent, non-negotiable, positions is a real one. But it is the interpretation of these truth-claims that is the problem; the repeated human desire to claim that God is on our side, that we have formed the Party of & God, that our human frailty, cruelty and inhumanity is sanctioned by God. The arrogance behind that is surely the true meaning of blasphemy.

Without inter-faith understanding, the exclusivist and closed-minded attitude is allowed free occupation of the religious space in politics.

(We) need help. Religious leaders must step forward and engage.

How faith impacts us all must be a question for universities and schools, where education about others is so crucial; and a political question

Finally, were this to happen, there would be one major and positive consequence for faith itself. It would open up the potential of faith to many who at present search for spiritual meaning but have come to regard the practice of faith as the preserve of the irrational, the superstitious and the prejudiced. It would allow a true and rational belief in God to direct the path of the 21st Century. That is where faith belongs. And why the world needs it.

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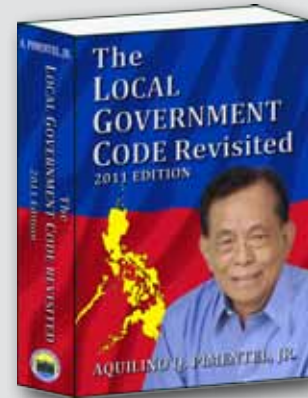
Participants can now register online for the barangay seminar and they can send feedback directly using the website feedback page.

They can send comments through our blog.

They can also download brochures, forms, logos, and Paglaum newsletters.

Participants may also interact through our facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pimentel-Institute-for-Leadership-and-Governance-PILG/143618115680804>

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