



# Paglaum



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HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

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## HONEST MAN RETURNS LOST WALLET, MONEY, PAPERS INTACT



(Seated, L-R) Lilia Banton, Nene Pimentel, Arnold Banton, and Roy Carandang. (Standing, L-R) Lorraine Borghijs, Dr. Norma Camunay, Cris Uy and Frankie Reyes.

By *Paglaum* Writers

Arnold P. Banton does a living as a helper at a butcher shop at the Munoz Market in Quezon City.

His roots are from Basey, Samar. He is 33 years old and is married to Lilia, an Ilocana. They have three girls, aged 3, 5 and 6 and they live in a rented dwelling in Project 8, Quezon City.

Hardly anyone knows him.

Even *Paglaum* never heard of him until the events narrated below took place.

On his way to work on the early morning of April 12, 2012, he found a wallet on a busy street not far from his house. He took a quick look at what was inside and decided to put it in his pocket because, as he recounted it to *Paglaum*, "there were many pedestrians nearby" and he did not want to attract undue attention.

When he got to his workplace, he showed his find to his co-workers and told them he would return it to the owner.

He then telephoned Lilia and informed her of what he had found and of his decision to return it but that he did not know who the owner was. Lilia replied that she would help him with the problem after she "could check their daughter, Angel, out of the hospital."

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## ENERGY HEAD, OPTIMISTIC

By Jay Dejaresco



DOE Sec. Jose Rene Almendras

Despite the bleak outlook of the crippling power crisis that has gripped parts of the country specially in Mindanao, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras painted a rosy picture of the future of the nation's energy sustainability.

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## Word from the Center

From Thursday to Saturday, April 5 - 7 of Holy Week this year, Christians - at least in this country - recalled in rites with exacting detail the torture, the crucifixion and death of Jesus, the Christ.

In that short period, our Christian ceremonies underscored a point that makes our faith so unlike others. And it is this: That our Savior was physically 'pummeled to a pulp', nailed to a cross as if He were a criminal and died as any human being would have under the circumstances.

Three days later, however, on Resurrection Sunday (celebrated on April 8, this year), He rose again from the dead.

Indeed, through the centuries attempts were made to portray Jesus as a blasphemer and to hound his followers. The motive was to deter the spread of His teachings.

To no avail. In fact, the more the Christians were persecuted, the more Christianity flour-

ished. And despite the harassments, Christians continued to believe in the pristine purity of the basic teachings of the Savior who had turned the antediluvian moral values of the world upside down. As examples, He taught that "To have life, one must die" and "To be a leader, one must be a servant."

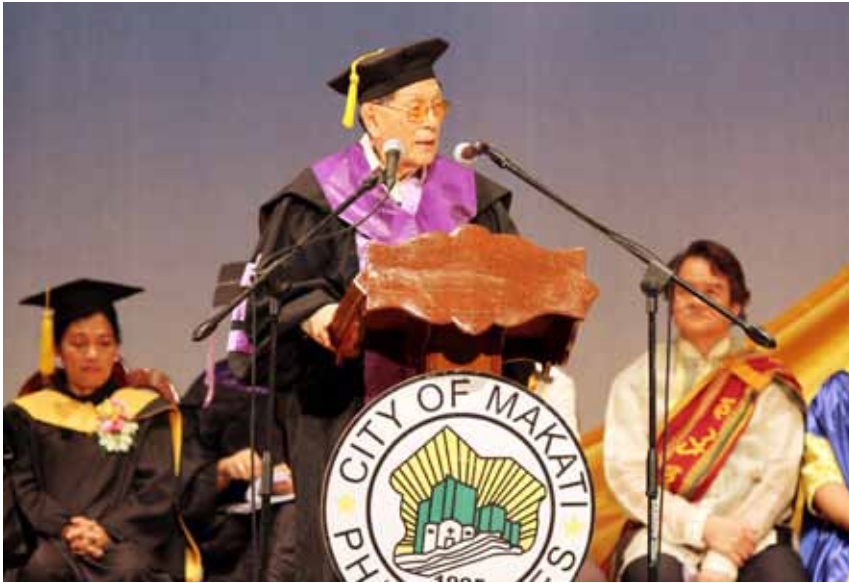
It is good that not a 't' of the teachings of Jesus had been uncrossed. For a religion that changes its fundamental tenets to suit the 'demands of the times' is not worth its name.

Hence it is hoped that the Christian majority of our country would truly embrace not only one another as brothers and sisters in Christ but those of other religions as well. The latter, after all, are also children of God.

Then with God's grace, we pray that we will be transformed from a poverty-stricken nation into one that is blessed with peace, progress and prosperity.

# "GIVE BACK TO COUNTRY," SP ENRILE URGES GRADS

By Jay Dejaresco



CGPP Graduation Guest Speaker, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile urged the graduates to "give back to our people" what they have gained from their schooling and contribute to the betterment of society.

Enrile was the guest speaker at the 39th commencement exercises of the College of Governance and Public Policy of the University of Makati last March 31 at the University's Main Theatre.

## Critical thinking

"Wherever you may find yourselves in the future, do not forget to share your knowledge and expertise," Enrile told the graduates, "and use critical thinking" to better serve our people.

"Know that the country needs you and I trust that you will not fail our motherland," he said.

Enrile, who earned advanced academic degrees in many noted academic institutions here and abroad,

spent most of his professional years in government.

"In my forty years in government service, I have worked hard to create economic, political and social development opportunities for each and every Filipino," Enrile said.

## Jobs

As the current head of the Senate he reassured the graduates that under his watch, he will continue to craft policies that will strengthen not only the economy through job creation, but also the moral fiber of our nation.

The graduation ceremony was also graced by University President Tom Lopez, Exexutive Vice President Edith Chan, Vice Presidents Adelina Patriarca and Raymund Arcega .

Dean Ederson Tapia, Prof. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., Prof. Raymund John P. Rosuelo, Prof. Norma D. Camunay, Prof., Jaime

important for the students to apply the learning they have imbibed from the University to create jobs that will lead towards the alleviation of poverty in the country.

"As graduates of the CGPP, you should help in creating jobs that are doable by our people and in our country," he said.

## Magic-like quality

Prof. Pimentel, who was asked to give a congratulatory message to the graduates, told them that "if there was one thought that I would like to leave with you, it is this: that when you share your knowl-

G. Ocampo, Prof. Arturo B. Maravilla and Prof. Andrew Lou L. Mungcal, were among the faculty of the University who attended the graduation rites.

## Doable jobs

University President Lopez in his talk-after the Senate President's message said that it was im-

edge with people borne out of love for them, as our guest speaker suggested and as our University President seconded, you will find out that it enjoys a magic-like quality much unlike material things. And that is the more you share knowledge, the more it grows."

The CGPP had 122 students who graduated from diverse courses connected with public policy. Maria Emeriza Ola spoke on behalf of the graduates. She finished her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy with honors (cum laude) and with paralegal studies as her minor.

Her statement is found on page 6.

This year's theme of the commencement exercises of the University was the "21st Century UMak: Leading a Relevant Revitalized and Revolutionary Education."



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# SUMMING UP IN PICTURES

## GRADUATION



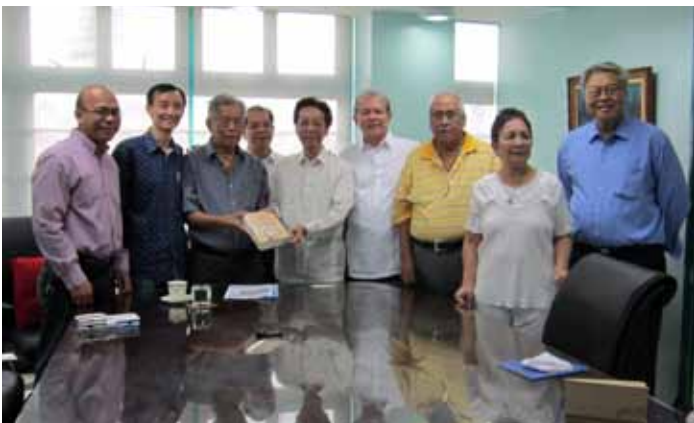
At CGPP graduation rites: Dr. Edith Chan (in colorful toga, standing), Dean Ederson Tapia and other college officials hand out awards and diplomas. Seated (left to right) are University President Tom Lopez, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Prof. Nene Pimentel, Academic Vice President Adelina Patriarca, and Alumni Association Representative Mayor Ramon Briones Galicia.

## LIBRARY



A view of the recently opened Library of the Pimentel Center. The Library run by Ms. Maelyn Calizo, a professional librarian, is open to the alumni of the Center's seminars, and the University faculty and students.

## BOOKS DONORS



Dr. Phil Chua, M.D., Chair, Pilipino United Network-USA (4th from left) hands over to Nene Pimentel (3rd from left) books from USA. Witnessing the happy occasion are (L-R) Cris Uy, Hugh Nguyen, Roy Carandang, King Flores, Pepe Pestano, Nene Pestano and Jimmy Pestano.



Prof. Nene Pimentel and Mrs. Bing Pimentel receive books donated by Isa Tad-eo Franco, Karen and Nicole Franco.

## MEDICINES DONOR



Dr. Anacleto Millendez of the Beautiful Heart Foundation, USA (2nd from left) turns over to Nene Pimentel (3rd from left) a box of medicines for recent typhoon victims.

## UMak ACTIVITY



Spiritual Retreat and Team Building Meeting. (L-R) Dr. Milagros Lourdes M. Torres, Prof. Reneliza M. Ferrer, EVP Edita I. Chan, Prof. Analiza Arcega, Dr. Teodora Sabater and EVP staff members.

**HONEST MAN...**

Thus, it was only on the evening of April 13, 2012 when Lilia had already brought Angel back to their home that she and Arnold were able to examine the contents of the wallet in detail. They counted a little more than a thousand pesos in the wallet and saw a driver's license and some IDs, too.

Lilia told *Paglaum* that they noticed a telephone number on an LBC letter-cover that had been folded inside the wallet.

The couple then called up the number. A man answered. He identified himself as Noel, a driver.

From the driver's license in the wallet, Arnold and Lilia knew that they "were now in contact with the owner of the wallet. They, then, asked him to come over to their home to get it.

Noel went over as told and after the couple had verified his identity, they handed the wallet over to him. To his utter surprise, he found that his wallet "still had the same sum of cash in it". Not a peso was lost or an ID or anything, missing.

And equally important to him, he told *Paglaum*, Arnold and his wife asked for no reward.

To his amazement, Noel added that the couple even apologized that Arnold was not able to return the wallet and its contents earlier. The delay, Arnold told him, was caused by "the hospitalization of our daughter who was then being attended to by Lilia."

Now why did Arnold do what he did? And why did his wife support his act of unusual honesty?

*Paglaum* decided to push the issue a little deeper and through Noel requested

Arnold and Lilia for an interview.

The following conversation (done in Taglish) between *Paglaum* and Arnold and his wife, Lilia, took place on April 14 at roughly 9 p.m.

*Paglaum:* "Aside from your work at a butcher shop in the Munoz Market in Quezon City, do you have any other income?"

Arnold: "Wala po." (None).

P: "And Lilia, do you have any employment outside your house?"

L: "Wala din po. Nasa bahay lang ako." (No, I am a full time housewife.)

P: "You have three girls, Kathleen Joy, aged 6 years; Angel, 5 and Jilian, 3. Considering the rising costs of everything, how do you manage to survive?"

A: "Kayod at tipid-tipid." (By hard work and thrift).

L: "At sa tulong ng Panginoon, nakakaraos din po kami." (And with the help of the Lord, we are able to overcome life's difficulties.)

P: "You could have just kept quiet and used the money in the wallet to buy medicine for your little girl and for other sundry needs. Why did you choose to call up the wallet-owner and return everything to him?"

A: "Doon po sa tinatrabaohan ko, sinabi ko sa aking mga kasamahan, ibabalik ko ang pitaka at lahat ng nilalaman nito sa mayari pagnakita ko na sya." (At my work place, I told my coworkers, I will return the things to the owner when I find him.)



Arnold Banton (right) and his wife, Lilia (left) wait for *Paglaum* interview to begin.

P: "But why did you do that?"

A: "Baka mas kailangan po niya ang mga nilalaman ng pitaka." (He - referring to the owner - might need the contents of the wallet more than we do.)

P: "Our thanks to you, both, for standing up for what is right and taking our questions and answering them forthrightly. With you, there is really hope for our nation's transformation. God bless you."

[Editor's note: *Paglaum* believes that in view of the pervasive climate of corruption that seems to envelop the people in public and in private life, the likes of Arnold P. Banton should be immortalized.

He has done our people proud.]

Following are some comments emailed or texted to *Paglaum* from people who learned of Arnold's honesty:

SheTV - "Wow! Will give this ... 2 d desk."

EddieCalderon (Minnesota): "This is the kind of example I would like to see from our countrymates. It shows that honesty and integrity are not the sole qualities of people from Singapore, Finland, Iceland and other model countries of

the world."

Dedette Aquino (Anaheim, California) - "I love ... the story about this admirable person and his family."

mesposo@yahoo.com: "We do have jewels in our countrymen. All they need is to be given the opportunity to further move our country forward."

Abet Bercasio (Naga City): "This is really inspiring."

Kit Canillas (Manila): "A heart warming story. Gives us hope that our country may still be lifted off the corruption it is immersed in."

Buencelorteg (Manila): "Wow! Sana dumami pa ang tulad nya para magkaroon talaga ng pagasa bayan natin. I will mention this in our radio program tom para naman maging huwaran siya."

TJ2 (Manila): "Indeed there is hope for our country."

Bob Gabuna (Arctic Region, Canada): "Heartening and inspiring. Made my heart warm."

MCAlmonte: "Beautiful story. True to life. There are those who are really God-fearing. Honest."

Camille (Manila): "When can we interview...?"

# UMak TO IMPLEMENT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (K TO 12) IN ADVANCE

University of Makati President, Tomas B. Lopez Jr. announced recently UMak's intent to advance the implementation of K11-12 levels of the K to 12 Program of the Department of Education as a special program at the University of Makati. The implementation will take effect in the coming School Year 2012-13.

The university started its orientation with all fourth year students of the different Makati High Schools. There will be no new admission of college students in this coming school year.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar "Erwin" S. Binay Jr., UMak Chairman of the Board of Regents, initiated this special program for UMak in partnership with the Department of Education to provide concrete evidence on the expected good outcomes of the K to 12 Program for the benefits of students and their parents.

This program will add a two year course as Grade 11 (5th year high school) and Grade 12 (6th year high school).



(L-R): Faculty members Dr. Gloria G. Mallari, Dr. Milagros Lourdes Torre, Dr. Teodora Sabater and Ms. Leonora Burgos discuss the "K to 12" curriculum with University President Tomas Lopez and University Secretary Elyxur C. Ramos.

Mayor Binay expressed his concern that "a lot of our people are deprived of employment if they were not able to pursue college education". The Mayor added that the advanced implementation of K to 12 Program will hopefully change the mindset of both employers and job applicants with regards to worth of high school graduates.

The implementation of the program is assigned to the University Secretary Dr. Elyxur C. Ramos and Dr. Milagros C. Torres, K to 12 program director. The University looks forward to turning out high school graduates who possess basic competencies and emotional maturity required of a globally competitive work force.

## ANYTHING WRONG WITH K TO 12?

*The following are some critical views of Filipino academic scientists on the proposed K-12 education program as compiled and emailed (to The Center) by Dr. Flor Lacanilao, Ph.D. These are published here with his permission:*

1) The basic education system of the Philippines faces two major problems: (1) high dropout rates in primary and secondary schools, and (2) lack of mastery of specific skills and content as reflected in poor performance in standard tests for both Grade IV and Grade VIII (2nd year high school) students. Unfortunately, the proposed K+12 curriculum does not directly address these problems.

2) It is the learning outcomes that should concern us here. I still have to see evidence (perhaps I did not look hard enough) that the additional two years of high school will improve learning performance.

3) The controversial K-12

(kindergarten to grade 12) is not really controversial. All commentaries I have read by Filipino academic scientists are not in favor of the new K-12 program.

4) Meanwhile, Brother Armin, DepEd Secretary, remains upbeat. 'Genuine reform needs at least a generation to take root. We'll just have to be happy with being part of planting the seed' he said. Academic scientists believe that this planted seed will either not grow or planted in infertile soil.

5) Adding two years to the present 10-year basic education cycle is "an absolutely essential reform" to put the country's public education system at par with the rest of the world, an interna-

tional education expert said on Wednesday. . . "I actually don't see how people can disagree with it," said Shaeffer before an audience of top Philippine education officials and representatives from various schools. [The so-called international expert has only 2 SSCI published paper; none in SCI. He did not cite any properly published study or author, just like other commentaries supporting the Philippine K-12.]



**Flor Lacanilao** obtained his B.S. and M.S. (both in Zoology) from UP Diliman, and his Ph.D. (specialization in Comparative Endocrinology) from the University of California at Berkeley.

He served as Professor, Marine Science

Institute, UP Diliman, chairman of the Zoology Dept at UP Diliman, and chancellor of UP Visayas. He also served as chief of the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in Iloilo, Philippines.

He is known for his pioneering discoveries in neuroendocrinology and for leading the research group that was the first to achieve the spontaneous breeding of milkfish in captivity.

# “RESPONSIBILITY, OPTIMISM, INTEGRITY”

By

**MARIA EMERIZA OLA**, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Major in Para-Legal Studies, Cum Laude.

*(Excerpts from her Message to the Graduates of the College of Governance and Public Policy of the University of Makati, March 31, 2012)*

\* The misconception in the mind of the students is that graduation will bring us a higher quality of life with less effort. However, the diploma that we are about to receive will just be a mere piece of paper if we are not going to use the lessons that our Alma Mater had taught us.

\* When (we) reached (our) senior year, we were exposed to the real world, the world of professionals. We ... trained to be professionals in our chosen field ... to become better prepared to deal with the harsh realities of life.

## **Trust ourselves**

\* In this stage, we meet different people with different perspectives in life. Some of them will let us down and some will lift us high. It is (at this stage of our) journey where we learned that we should trust our own-selves to make decisions that will greatly affect our future; a future shrouded with uncertainties. I know that all of us had made the right decision. That is why we are here today.

## **Responsibility**

\* In my four year journey, as a student, I have learned several virtues in life. First is the virtue of responsibility. As students, we had to do all the responsibilities assigned to us in our college days so that there would be no regrets in the end. Our time is limited; we should not waste time doing nothing. We should learn to value and appreciate every

second of our life; we should make the most out of it. As we begin our journey in the real world, let us not forget to be responsible for all our actions.

## **Optimism**

\* Second is the virtue of optimism. we had several ups and downs during our stay in this university, and several negative criticisms coming from the people who want to let us down. This had negative impacts on us that surely affected our behaviour in school. Early enough, I realized that if we continue to let those negative thoughts influence us, it can totally destroy our individual goals. As we stand on the threshold of what is sometimes called ‘real life’, I want to remind all of you that there are crueler and more unfair situations that we need to face positively even though the world appears as if it is trying to bring us down.

## **Integrity**

\* And third is the virtue of integrity, there will always be people, who will try to deceive you to do the wrong things. In this kind of situation, we need to be morally sound and stand for a set of values and principles. We should not let them dictate to us; we must stand for what we believe is right.

## **Adapt and grow**

\* As we attain this major milestone in our graduation from college, we will be moving to the next challenge- the challenge that will determine our future. We live in a world that is changing faster than ever. And to keep up, we all must adapt and grow. The world today is a world of competition. As fresh graduates, we will be competing with other graduates and professionals in our chosen field. But the world offers lots of opportunities for us to find the path where we can fit in. This University as well as the students have proven

time and again that we can compete with all the other universities when UMaK was given ISO Certification by SGC Philippines making us the first local university to be ISO certified. We had produced excellent graduates, to name a few, like Atty. Margaret Dacatimbang and Atty. Maria Dianne Tabonigao who recently passed the bar exams.

## **Strive for excellence**

Fellow graduates we should strive for excellence. Graduation is not the end



**Maria Emeriza Ola**

of our journey, but the beginning of the real journey. Let us face this new life with determination and commitment and let us make a difference.

## **MINDANAEONS' TAKE ON POWER CRISIS**

*Culled from Winnie Marbella's Online Blog of April 22*

Quoting Paul Simon's 'memorable lines' in *The Sound of Silence*, Marbella described the discussions on the 'power crisis in Mindanao' as a forum of "people talking without speaking" and "people hearing without listening".

He said that "Those eight words basically describe the current discussions on the power crisis in Mindanao. Many people are talking. But not one is listening."

In any case, Marbella noted that "Mindanao governors have (clearly) reiterated their stance against the national government's plan to sell" the Agus and Pulangi "power facilities to private firms as a way to solve the energy crisis on the island."

He identified the governors as Davao del Norte Governor Rodolfo del Rosario, president of the Confederation of Provincial Governors, City

Mayors and Municipal Mayors League Presidents (Confed), Surigao del Sur Governor Johnny Pimentel, Agusan del Sur Gov. Eddiebong Plaza, Agusan del Norte Gov. Erlpe John Amante, South Cotabato Gov. Arthur Pingoy, North Cotabato Gov. Lala Taliño-Mendoza, Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas and Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno.

The governors feared that the privatization of the Agus and Pulangi power plants would lead to power cost increases and discourage investors from coming to Mindanao.

They also asked the President Benigno Aquino III to "appoint a Mindanao consumer group representative to the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Marbella ended his exquisitely worded commentary on the power crisis in Mindanao by quoting the last lines of Simon's song: "But my words like silent raindrops fell/And echoed in the wells of silence."

## ENERGY...

The DOE Secretary was the speaker of the monthly roundtable discussion of current issues faced by the nation, conducted by the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) and the Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG) of the College of Governance and Public Policy of the the University of Makati last April 20, 2012.

A cross section of the academe, the government, and the private sector saw the secretary draw a favorable perspective of the nation's future energy situation.

### *Sustainable energy*

The good news is that the country's "energy consumption is sustainable," Almendras asserted.

The Philippines is able to supply 57.5% of our energy needs from its own resources, Almendras added.

The oil crisis in the 1970's that spiked the increase in the price of oil, he said, prompted the policy makers to promote self sufficiency in terms of energy consumption.

### *Green energy*

The country, then, decided to promote green energy, like hydro and geothermal, he said. That shift to green energy has made the country "the world's largest geothermal electricity producer," Sec. Almendras disclosed, asserting that "46.3% of our energy requirements are met by green, meaning non polluting renewable energy.

He also announced that the present use of renewable energy is over the benchmark set by the United Nations which is 30% of a country's total the energy use.

### *No dependence on oil*

The secretary also clarified that contrary to common perception, the country has low dependency on oil as a source of energy. Our petrol energy based consumption is only 7.52%, he said.

Waxing sanguine, the secretary added that "Even if the straits of Hormus were closed



**Sec. Almendras (center) flanked by Johnny Pecayo, President-Elect of Makati Rotary Club Neilsen, and Nene Pimentel, kept his Round Table audience at The Center in rapt attention.**

due to armed conflict, the country will have sufficient electricity because we have veered away from hydro-carbons or petroleum from energy generation and we are 66% self sufficient in our energy needs."

### *LNG energy of the future*

Sec. Almendras also expressed confidence that the future energy resource will no longer be oil but liquefied natural gas or LNG, which the country "has in abundance".

From petroleum, the traditional source of energy, "modern technology has allowed us to shift to new types of energy resources like Liquefied Natural Gas.

He cited as examples that as of "today, there are 41 buses plying the Batangas-Ma-

nila route that are fueled by LNG. The cost of fuel for these buses is 40% cheaper than if they run on diesel fuel.

### *Energy & economic viability*

Almendras also explained that economics is a vital component in determining the use of energy. "Even if energy is cheap, but the costs of transporting it from one place to another is high, then it may not be economically practicable to use that type of energy resource," he said.

"Coal fired power plants", Almendras said cannot take the place of other available sources of indigenous power in the country because they would not be viable in provinces where energy demand is low.

### *Social dimensions of energy*

Almendras said the social dimensions of energy sourcing cannot be ignored. It is not socially acceptable to uproot and dislocate people, and move them in the name of creating an energy source, he said.

While nuclear energy might be cheap, but society does not consider nuclear energy as an acceptable energy source, especially with the experience in Fukushima after the massive earthquake in north Japan a year ago.

### *Environmental factor*

The Energy Secretary emphasized that "we need to be responsible to be sustainable in our energy resources so that not only the present but the future generations as well will benefit from it.

Talking about the Mindanao power crisis situation. Secretary Almendras said that there is no "silver bullet to remedy the situation" but the Agus Power Plant should be rehabilitated, among other power sources, because it has the potential to provide for the long term power needs of many places in Mindanao.

In the short term, the secretary insinuated in answer to questions raised during the forum that the government ought to look at the problem of lowering the costs to the consumers even as it practices free trade.



**Sec. Almendras receives a plaque of appreciation from Nene Pimentel. Others in the picture (L-R): Johnny Pecayo who introduced the Secretary, Jun Aquino, President of Rotary Club Makati Buendia, Roger Miranda (partially hidden), President of Makati Rotary Club Southwest and Roy Carandang.**

# LAW GRANTS CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY FOR COUNCILORS AND BOARD MEMBERS

By Dr. Jaime G. Ocampo

City and Municipal Councilors and provincial Board Members now have civil service eligibility. President Benigno S. Aquino III approved RA 10156 on December 20, 2011 that confers upon members of the Sangguniang Bayan, Panlungsod and Sangguniang Panlalawigan, the Appropriate Civil Service Eligibility under certain Circumstances.

Atty. Alan D. Zulueta, the honorary chairman of the Philippine Councilors League made the announcement in out of town cluster classes conducted by the College of Governance and Public Policy (CGPP)

in partnership with the PCL Legislative Academy in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, including the NCR Cluster.

Under the law, an eligibility equivalent to a Career Service Professional Eligibility is conferred upon a member of the Sanggunian, who has served for an aggregate period of nine (9) years in office provided that such member is a holder of a bachelor's degree.

A Sanggunian member who has served for an aggregate period of six (6) years may also be granted an eligibility equivalent to a Career Service Sub Profes-

sional Eligibility provided that he or she shall have earned at least seventy-two (72) units in any baccalaureate degree program. Likewise, the eligibility granted shall be considered appropriate for second and first level positions in the career service respectively, except those which require qualifications in skills or trade tests and/or require board examinations and other special eligibilities provided under special laws.

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) was

authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement RA 10156 within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of the Act.

The legislative reform initiated by the PCL has encouraged Sanggunian Members of the Legislative Council who have not yet finished their bachelors degree courses to enroll in the Executive Program on Bachelors of Arts in Political Science, Major in Local Government Administration offered by the College of Governance and Public Policy (CGPP) of the University of Makati.

## BARANGAY ART

### BECOMES PART OF SEMINAR

The Local Government seminar that the Pimentel Center has scheduled for April 27 and 28 will feature a discussion of what kind of art may be easily promoted by the leaders and residents of barangays.

This was disclosed by Atty. Gwen P. Gana, President of the Pimentel Institute for Local Governance and a fellow of the Center.

Tapped to do the first discussion of the topic is Nestor Torre, a renowned director of local films and plays and movie critic.

"Knowing that art can be a medium not only of entertainment but of national transformation," Atty. Gana said, "we



**Nestor Torre**

found it necessary to include it as one of the topics for discussion at the regular barangay seminar the Center is conducting."

## OPINION CORNER

April 10, 2012

COUNCILOR DARWIN I. QUIACOS  
Office of the Sangguniang Bayan  
Municipality of Gen. E. Aguinaldo  
Province of Cavite

Dear Councilor Quiacos:

Before the Holy Week came, I already had a draft of my opinion regarding the query that you sent by email on March 29, 2012.

Unfortunately, the computer that I was using crashed - erasing everything that had been recorded in it.

In any event, my take on the issues that you raised follows:

- 1) the Sanggunian that must make the recommendation to change the name of a municipality has to be the Sangguniang Bayan of that municipality.

The role of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan is to approve or to disapprove the move to CHANGE THE NAME of the municipality recommended by the Sangguniang Bayan in consultation with the Philippine Historical Commission.

Otherwise you would have the ridiculous situation of having the Sangguniang Panlalawigan making the initial recommendation to change the name of the municipality and later approving its own recommendation.

2. The Sanggunian that must first vote on the move to change the name of a municipality is the Sangguniang Bayan of that municipality in consultation with the PHC.

Where the name sought to be changed has historical roots, the vote of the Sanggunian is required to be unanimous (and, always in consultation with the PHC).

The requirement for unanimity of the vote of the Sangguniang Bayan to recommend the change of name of a municipality that is based on historical circumstances is to ensure that it is done with good reasons and not for narrow partisan purposes or whimsically.

Why must it be the Sanggunian of the municipality concerned?

The reason is that it is the members of the Sangguniang Bayan who represent the residents of the municipality who elected them into office and who are directly affected by the move to change the name of their municipality.

The participation of the PHC is an added safeguard against 'politicking' or political partisanship on the issue of changing the name of a municipality by local politicians, a matter that may have grave historical implications especially as it involves in the query you raised the move to change the name of the municipality of General Emilio Aguinaldo, who no doubt occupies a prominent place in the annals of our history as a people.

Hoping that this opinion will help you resolve the problem that you brought to the attention of the Center, I am

Faternally yours,

AQUILINO PIMENTEL JR.