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BARANGAY OFFICIALS: MIRRORS OF GOVERNMENT



Seated (L-R): Presiding Justice Francisco H. Villaruz, Jr. of the Sandiganbayan, Prof. Nene Pimentel, and Bel Formanes, Secretary-General of the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines. Standing are some of the participants of the May 25-26 seminar for local government officials conducted by the Center.

DEGREES FOR LIGA MEMBERS SOUGHT

Officials of the Liga ng mga Barangay, led by its president, Ricojudge Echeverri of Caloocan City are working out the details of a memorandum of understanding with the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance and the Pimentel Center for Local Governance to enable its members to earn the appropriate baccalaureate or masteral degrees in local governance and public administration.

The degrees will be conferred by the College of Governance and Public Policy (CGPP) in the University of Makati after the barangay officials concerned shall have taken

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Word from the Center

Invigorating Presidency

He came across as a caring president.

President Noynoy Aquino, that's who.

He was having a dialogue in Malacanang last June 8 with the marginalized tillers of the soil from Negros Occidental, Bukidnon and Davao. They had marched from their farms to air their grievances over the slow pace of the DAR in parcelling out the farm lots allotted to them by the agrarian reform law.

The President arrived a few minutes late. But everybody understood his heavy schedule that day. He looked fresh and even fatherly to his visitors. Aside

from those surface observations, more important to the farmer-tillers was the fact that they found him attentive to the proceedings. At one point, he even interrupted the presentation of DAR Sec. Gil de los Reyes to say that for Negros Occidental alone, there was an additional P1 billion already set aside to tackle CARP concerns, not merely P300 million.

To say that President Noynoy regained in that dialogue the trust and confidence of the toiling masses in his presidency is an understatement. More vital is that by the candor that he

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By Jay Dejaresco

Barangay officials play a significant role in shoring up public confidence in government. As frontliners in the delivery of public service, they mirror the kind of government that runs the country.

This was the gist of the statement delivered by Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francisco H. Villaruz, Jr., when he keynoted the seminar for barangay officials at the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance and Pimentel Center for Local Governance at the University of Makati on May 25, 2012.

Villaruz emphasized that barangay officials are in direct contact with constituents such that they give immediate impression to the people as to whether their government is good or bad.

He shared the thrust of the Sandiganbayan in serving our people which is to ensure that public officials shall always be reminded that public office is a public trust.

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NEPAL OFFICIALS/PCLG FELLOWS DISCUSS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE & FEDERALISM

By Jay Dejaresco



Muslim leader and former Gov. Al Tillah of Tawi-tawi (extreme right), explains how the Local Government Code sets the stage for the eventual federalization of the country to the Nepalese delegation led by Sec. Jaya Mukunda Khanal of the Office of the Prime Minister of Nepal (May 30).

A contingent from the government of Nepal gained insights on Philippine local autonomy during a study visit to the PILG/PCLG in a bid to widen their understanding of local autonomy last May 30.

The study visit is a part of the efforts of the Nepalese government to lay the foundations for federalism, by drawing from the local autonomy experience in the Philippines.

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance and the Pimentel Center for Local Governance headed by Prof. Aquilino Nene Pimentel Jr., engaged the delegates of the Office of the Prime Minister

and Council of Ministers of Nepal in a wide ranging discussions on the importance and benefits of local autonomy through the granting more powers and wider participation of local governments leaders in the delivery of basic services to the people.

The delegation who were from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers of Nepal included Jaya Mukunda Khanal, Secretary; Sharad Chandra Paudel, Joint Secretary; Dilli Ram Sharma Undersecretary; Umakanta Acharya, Undersecretary; Sumit Sharma Sameer, Program Officer.



Seated (L-R) Sec. Jaya Mukunda Khanal, Prof. Nene Pimentel, Sharad Chanda Paudel and Gov. Al Tillah. Standing (L-R) Umakanta Acharya, Sumit Sharma Sameer, Dilli Ram Sharma, Geha Nath Gautam, Hugh Nguyen, King Flores, Dr. Gilbert Llanto, Dr. Alex Brillantes and Dr. Norma Camunay.

DEGREES...

the prescribed curriculum being prepared by the CGPP in addition to the seminars being conducted by the PILG/PCLG.

Under the terms of the proposed memorandum of understanding, the PILG/PCLG shall be the provider of lecturers, trainers and professors who will train the barangay participants in accordance with a curriculum formulated by a committee of the Liga ng mga Barangay with the assistance of PILG/PCLG.

The PILG/PCLG will also provide the barangay participants and enrollees copies of materials that will be taken up in the discussions.

The Liga and the PILG/PCLG may also offer short term courses for barangay officials who may not opt to pursue full baccalaureate degrees.

For almost two years now, the PILG/PCLG has been conducting regular seminars for barangay leaders and other LGU officials nationwide.

The PILG/PCLG has provided significant inputs on local governance through their lecturers who are widely recognized as authorities in the field.



Paglaum



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BARANGAY...

He urged barangay officials to show to our people that they are worthy of the trust reposed on them by those who placed them into office.

If our barangay officials are good, then the people will have a good impression of our government, Villaruz said.

While many public officers are good, there are also some bad ones, he said.

The Sandiganbayan is the legal mechanism that tries and metes out punishment to erring public officials.

In his talk, Villaruz said, barangay officials do not directly fall under the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan.

He said that the Sandiganbayan generally exercises jurisdiction to try government officials with a Salary Grade No. 27 and above.

A Punong Barangay has a Salary Grade of 14 while a barangay kagawad has a Salary Grade of 10.

This does not mean however, that no barangay official can be hailed to the Sandiganbayan.

He said barangay officials who conspire with other public officials who fall under the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan will be tried in the graft court.

Also, if barangay officials are



Presiding Justice Francisco Villaruz, Jr.

convicted in the regular court for crimes in relation to their duties, they file their appeal to the Sandiganbayan.

At the same time, Villaruz recognized the need for the Sandiganbayan to draw itself closer to the people.

The court has undertaken steps toward this objective by holding trials in other cities, outside the home of Sandiganbayan in Quezon City.

Former Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr. strongly suggested the establishment of Sandiganbayan divisions in the Visayas and Mindanao, to bring the court nearer to the people who desire easier access in the dispensation of justice.

WORD...

exuded in and the sincerity that characterized his responses to their grievances, the marginalized farmer-tillers' hopes for a better tomorrow have now been reinvigorated.

They willingly called off their planned hunger strike and are now patiently awaiting developments that would crown their decades-long dreams to be treated with dignity like human beings, not as beasts of burden, by the landowners and those who implement the Agrarian Reform Law. And in their lifetime. Not after they are gone to the great beyond.

Finally, for the sake of his health and the fulfillment of their dreams, the farmer-tillers wish the President would stop smoking. He had some fits of wheezing coughs in the course of the dialogue.



Justice Villaruz receives the Certificate of Appreciation from Prof. Nene Pimentel (May 25).

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL LEGISLATORS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

Dr. Jaime G. Ocampo

Last April 23 to 27, an academic study tour conducted by the CGPP-University of Makati, PCL-Councilors Legislative Academy with the support of DILG and PSPA and in partnership with the National Institute Development Administration (NIDA), Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and King Prajaddhipok Institute was undertaken by 36 councilor-participants.

Heading the delegation were PCL officials, Atty. Allan Zulueta, Atty. Owen Garcia and Dr. Larry Caminero and UMak rep-

resentatives Dean Ederson Tapia, Professors Raymund Rosuelo and Stanley Fernandez and the author.

It was a fruitful study tour, which is a part of the curriculum requirements of the programs both in Masters in Development Management Governance and in Bachelor's Degree in AB Political Science Major in Local Government Administration in the College of Governance and Public Policy (CGPP) of the University of Makati.

The lectures covered among other things, the experiences and practices of the Local Government Units in Thai-

land, the roles of the Thai LGUs, their contributions to the national development of their country as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by them amidst the demands of modern day governance. Ideas were exchanged on the best practices and innovations undertaken in the Philippines and Thailand on local governance.

There were also discussions on metropolitan governance regarding the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) as the central coordinating body of the central government on local government matters in Metropolitan

Bangkok which is different from the present set-up of MMDA here in our country. Likewise, the dynamics of local government politics and reforms were shared by the participating legislators.

The role of NIDA in transforming governance in Thailand as explained by President Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong was very inspiring as this set the direction of leaders to govern the people, change their mindsets and attitude towards better quality service, and better quality of life.

RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



A group of UMaK Cooperative leaders pose for a picture at the Coop's annual conference at a resort at Binangonan, Rizal (April 24).



Prof. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., Keynote Speaker at the 3rd National Assembly of the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas, expounds the priorities of the barangay as the smallest unit of government as set by the Local Government Code at Century Park Hotel, City of Manila (May 3).



Pastor Cris Uy (second from left), president of the Campus Crusade Ministries in the Philippines, donates two DVD players to the Library of the PILG/PCGG. Librarian Maelyn Calizo (fourth from left) receives the items. Also in the picture are Pastor King Flores (extreme left), Atty. Gwen Gana (second from right) and Clarisse Aquino (extreme right) (May 8).



Core Group tackles current issues affecting the Center. May be seen at the head table is Archbishop Oscar Cruz (center), and at the lower end, Dean Ed Tapia (May 9).



Congressman Bingbong Crisologo (right in white polo barong) visits Library of the Center (May 10).



VP Jojo Binay (center in white barong) poses for a picture with Paglaum staff (L-R) Carla Caringal, Maelyn Calizo and Clarisse Aquino, and Nene Pimentel in a surprise visit to the Center (May 10).



Congressman Godofredo Arquiza of the Senior Citizens Partylist calls on Nene Pimentel (May 14).



Visitors from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), University of Washington, and the Molave Development Foundation, Inc (MDFI) discuss with Nene Pimentel possible areas of cooperation in spreading local government principles. Seated (Left to Right) Dr. Angelo Ramos of MDFI, Mr. Ari Katz of IREX, Nene Pimentel, Mr. Christopher Coward of University of Washington and Ms. Maria Macapagal of MDFI (May 16).



Acel German, Director of Center for Performing Digital Arts (CePDA) talks about Barangay Arts during the Barangay Seminar (May 26).



John Maisto, (extreme right), former US Ambassador to the Organization of American States and newly elected President of the Philippine-US Society based in Washington, D.C., and Professor Charles Katz of the Arizona State University (extreme left) flank Nene Pimentel on their visit to the PILG/PCLG (June 1).



Australian couple, Elaine (second from left), and Bruce Smith (extreme right), donors of a LCD TV to the PILG/PCLG, sit for a photo session at the Center. Seated with them are Bing and Nene Pimentel. Standing (left to right): PILG Pres., Atty. Gwendolyn Gana, Architect Roy Carandang, and Pastor King Flores (June 6).



Task Force Mapalad farmer-members who marched from the Visayas and Mindanao to present their grievances to President Aquino meet with Nene Pimentel at the Center. 'Running Priest', Robert Reyes (at head table, speaking into the mic) helps clarify the agrarian reform issues the farmers are raising (June 6).



Prof. Alex Brillantes (right, in brown shirt, back to camera) leads the talks on how the Liga ng mga Barangay and the DILG and the PILG/PCGG may enter into a memorandum of agreement to expedite the handling of seminars for barangay officials (June 7.)



At an Annabelle's Restaurant Press Forum, Nene Pimentel (extreme right with mic) explains the principles behind his criticisms on the fielding by the UNA of a questionable candidate for the Senate in the 2013 elections despite the objections of Sen. Koko Pimentel. Listening at the head table are from left Jonat de la Cruz, convener of the press forum and Congressman Ompong Plaza, representing UNA (June 16).

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND NATION BUILDING

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

(Welcome remarks delivered by UMac Executive Vice-President Dr. Edita I. Chan, PhD)

Good morning!

When I woke up this morning and saw the effects of the de-warting procedure in my face which was done last Wednesday and Saturday, I almost didn't come to office and told my husband it will be easier to make an excuse instead of coming for people to see the effects of my vanity. My husband who had it also done to his face was upbeat, and he said, "go to school and just tell everyone that you have chickenpox". I told him "it's easy for you to say because its not you who will have to attend the Round Table Discussion that I have promised to attend".

Frankly, I WAS GREATLY TEMPTED TO BE ABSENT! But my sense of commitment prevailed and here I am to welcome you all to this morning's sharing about transformational leadership to be led by our distinguished guest Mr. Tony Meloto.

Lipman

"The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of a genius, can deal with successfully."

That's quoting Walter Lipman.

How do you define leadership? Depending on whom you ask, many people will have a different definition of leadership. My own definition is that leadership is the ability to provide direction to a group and influence people to follow the direction and act

accordingly. This definition was greatly influenced by my favorite leadership guru, John Maxwell.

Model

The transformational leader encourages followers by acting as a role model, motivating through inspiration, stimulating intellectually, and giving individualized consideration for needs and goals. Transformational leaders are always visible and will stand up to be counted rather than hide behind their troops. They build trust and strengthen relationships. They stand firm against the winds or resistance and give their followers the courage to continue the quest. They show by their attitudes and actions how everyone else should behave. They also make continued efforts to motivate and rally their followers, constantly doing the rounds, listening, soothing

and enthusing.

Jessica McElrath speaks of Martin Luther King Jr. as intelligent, dedicated, charismatic, and religious man. He had what it took to inspire the conscience of the American public. Abraham Lincoln was described by Dr. Philip Ernest Schoenberg as one of the greatest presidents America ever had because of his great compassion which he expressed also by action. His leadership and his ideas remain timeless. I'm not a fanatic crusader myself but even the Hindu leader Mohandas K. Gandhi would agree with me that the greatest example of an effective transformational leadership in all human history is that of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. His legacy is beyond compare. His perfect teachings on love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, **Turn to Page 6**

UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI ACTIVITIES

EXTENSION SERVICES OFFICE (ESO)

KABALIKAT PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

“By helping others, We help ourselves”

The Extension Services Office (ESO) in partnership with different private and government institutions led the University of Makati in conducting various outreach programs throughout the National Capital Region and nearby provinces this year. The programs focused on assisting the needy.

In the first quarter of this year, the ESO conducted four outreach programs namely:

Feeding and Gift Giving Program for Fifty (50) Children of Upper-West, Taguig City in partnership with Kiwanis Foundation headed by Dr. Gertrudez De Castro and Upper-West Neighborhood Association. The program ran for three months from January to March, 2012.



Dr. Gertrudez De Castro of Kiwanis Foundation hands out gifts to the children of Upper-West, Taguig City.

The fifty underweight children ages 0-7 years old from Upper-West, Taguig City were fed a special rice meal formulated by the Kiwanis Foundation.

The progress of the beneficiaries was monitored and evaluated individually. After three months, all the beneficiaries gained normal weights. Because of the success of this endeavor, the City Government of Taguig and Officials of Baranggay Pinagsama expressed their intention to be part of this program.

Gift-Giving Activity at Sto. Niño, Taguig City in partnership with Kiwanis Foundation, UMaK-Callejon Group and students from the College of Technology Management.



Another fifty (50) lucky children were chosen to be the program beneficiaries last March 3. Students from the College of Technology Management organized a culminating activity to entertain the children. Aside from entertaining them with different dance and song numbers, they were given early Christmas presents.

Gift Giving to the Catechist Students of Guadalupe Shrine, Guadalupe Nuevo in partnership with College of Arts, Sciences and Education-Mathematics Department.



ESO Dir. Ferrer gives a gift to a catechist student.

There are no limits in helping people. The ESO and CASE-Mathematics department conducted a gift-giving event for the Catechist Students of Guadalupe Shrine last March 23. Faculty members and some Math-Society members and students from different colleges and centers joined hands to raise funds by collecting used plastic bottles. The funds were used to buy clothes, food and candies for the student beneficiaries. Learning and understanding the word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ at early stage help them in pursuing a Christian living.

Lingkurang/Katuwang sa Paglilingkod sa Bayan: A community service program in partnership with Design Center for Nation Building and NSTP.



The children of GK dreamland with their assorted coloring books.

The Extension Services Office in partnership with the Design Center for Nation Building and National Service Training Program visited and brought joy to one hundred children of GK Dreamland at San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan last April 2. With them were some NSTP students who, for one day, became their *kuyas* and *ates* (big brothers/sisters). The group distributed assorted coloring books and prepared foods for the children. Aside from the gifts, their [children] *'kuyas'* and *'ates'* read stories to them, played games with them and did face painting for them. ESO Director Ms. RENELIZA M. FERRER and DCNB Director Ms. ANALIE T. SANCHO personally supervised the program.

TRANSFORMATIONAL...

mildness, and self-control remain valuable to all charismatic leaders these days, even to those that are not Christians.

Vision and Path

Perhaps the most important characteristic that transformational users possess is their ability to create a vision that binds people to each other. But transformational leaders must have more than just a vision. They “also have to know which path to follow in order to attain it.”

Leaders are truly transformational when they increase awareness of what is right, good, important, and beautiful, when they help to elevate followers’ needs for achievement and self-actualization, when they foster in followers higher moral maturity, and when they move followers to go beyond their self-interests for the good of their group, or society. I am sure Mr. Meloto will have a lot to say about this subject and I hope I am not encroaching on his topic by sharing my personal ideas about it.

When I was appointed Dean of College of Education in 1986, I didn’t consider myself a leader. I thought I was just working among the rest of the faculty. I didn’t consider the designation a leadership position, I thought it was just another job. Besides I was working along with the same faculty members of the COE. They were familiar, they were friends, they were the same people I worked with everyday. When I finished my doctorate and was designated the VPAA, in 1998, I started to get worried, because there’s nothing in the ED.D curriculum that said VPAA 101. I was worried just like the rest of UMak if I can do the job, if I can be good at it. I did what I think I can and still think that what I am doing is just another job.

Myths

Those who think that leadership is power, position, big salary, popularity and wealth will find themselves wrong, because they are myths of leadership. Those who think that being a leader brings fame and glory will find that most often being a leader is a thankless job. Be careful about doing one wrong move because they will forget about the ten good things you have done. If you think you will earn a lot for leading, you will find most of the time “*abonado ka pa*”. It is sometimes frustrating or irritating particularly if it imposes on your personal time or family time, many have found out that it’s a 24/7 job. And don’t ever think that it can be forever, even leaders are dispensable.

Leadership through example requires a sense of humor, a great deal of patience, and a basic understanding of human nature. Instead of complaining that people don’t listen, a leader through example creates situations that compel attention. Instead of complaining that that people don’t follow through, a leader by example discovers ways to make people want to follow through. Instead of complaining about the closed minds of others, a leader by example designs and asks questions that expand a person’s mind.

So just what does it take to achieve this? For me, it simply takes humility and modesty. Humility prompts me not to cover entirely the topic this morning because we have an authority to do it, and modesty reminds me to hand over the platform to the emcee to introduce our distinguished speaker for today.

On behalf of our University president, Prof. Tomas B. Lopez, Jr., I welcome you all and wish you a lovely and meaningful roundtable discussion. Thank you and good day!

MAKATI CITY HOSTS FIRST WORLD BANK'S GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

By Prof. Andrew Lou Mungcal

The City of Makati hosted the last of a three series five-day Study Visit and five-day Residency Program of the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery – City to City Sharing Initiative (GFDRR-C2CSI). Local Government Officials from Quito (Ecuador), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Makati City participated in the activity from April 18-27.

The activity was funded mainly by the first multilateral grant given to Makati City by the Bank to mainstream disaster risk management (DRM), and climate change mitigation and adaptation into the city's urban development planning. The project had a foreign grant of 450,000 USD and a counterpart fund of 50,000 USD for each participating LGU which began in March 2010 and ended this month.

The first Study Visit was held on November 2011 at Quito City, Ecuador high above the Andean mountain ranges. The next Study Visit followed at Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Nepal at the tip of volcanic ranges.

These cities were identified as disaster-prone areas. The project was based on the Ten Essentials of Making Cities Resilient Campaign under the International Hyogo Framework for Action. Guide materials covering the creation of disaster risk reduction that focused on three specific areas: risk-sensitive land use plan, public awareness campaign strategies and emergency management were made available to the participants. The Project also had five deliverables: creation of disaster risk management (DRM) City Profiles; Model Templates on risk-sensitive land use plan



(L-R) Josielynn Wie, Liza Vele Ramon, Dir. Cynthia Jose, Councilor Henry Jacome, Councilor Tetchie De Lara, Dr. Margaret Wahlstrom, Dr. Fouad Bendimerad, Asst. of Dr. Wahlstrom, Atty. Violeta Seva, Dir. Raymund Rosuelo, Prof. Andrew Mungcal, Engr. Danilo Enriques, Dir. Beth Fernandez (May 5).

(RSLUP), public awareness campaign (PAC) and emergency operations plan (EOP); sound practices; DRM Expert Capacities and Resource Persons Roster; and Building Knowledge Cities to scale-up the project to other disaster-prone cities.

In Makati City, there are at least two sound practices on DRM, namely: the Makati Risk-Sensitive Urban Redevelopment Project (MRSURP) in Barangay Rizal and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance (CLUP-ZO). The MRSURP is a joint undertaking by the Makati City Government and the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, Inc. (EMI) to mainstream urban disaster risk reduction in land use planning and disaster management. Barangay Rizal was identified as having been vulnerable to liquefaction and is situated within a fault line which may cause land-

slide, flooding and ground-shaking in the event of a disaster. Informal settlers in the said barangay who are residing in high risk areas and are most likely to be affected by an earthquake and flooding were relocated to San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan. The facility covers a 3.2 hectare-lot that was purchased by the Makati City Government for the relocation of families living in danger zones. The relocation facility is a joint project of Makati City Government and Gawad Kalinga (GK), a non-governmental organization (NGO) which provides housing for informal settlers. The relocated families are required to invest in a so-called "sweat equity" where they have to build their relocation houses or help build houses for other relocatees.

The Makati Urban Development Department (UDD) organizes the structure and land use plan in the relocation site while the Makati Social Welfare Department (MSWD) supervises the community organizing and relocation of families to the site with corresponding financial assistance. The Makati Department of Environmental Services (DES) monitors the relocated families' access to ecological solid waste management while the Makati Cooperative Development Office (MCDO) provides capacity building programs to ensure livelihood for the families.

Makati City not only relocates dwellers in slum areas but also helps in developing self-reliant communities out of the relocation sites.

Makati has also effectively implemented its CLUP and ZO through regular inspection of buildings and facilities in critical areas, clearing of waterways and creeks against encroachment by informal settlers, establishment of public markets, enforcement of sidewalk recovery program to prevent road encroachment, and strict implementation of traffic codes. The Makati Parking Authority (MAPA), a non-profit organization consisting of commercial establishments which have a stake on traffic management at Ayala/Makati Central Business District (CBD) facilitates vehicular flow, parking, public utility transport and road encroachment while the Makati Public Safety Department (MAPSA) patrols the other streets in the barangays.

Makati City has proven its capacity to deliver basic services to its residents and it complements the UN and the WB disaster risk reduction strategies with its local preparations against ecological threats and climate change-induced calamities.

The UN ISDR representative on DRR, Margaret Wahlstrom visited University of Makati (UMAK) last May 5. She expressed the hope to help establish a Policy Center at the UMK on DRR with a WB grant. With the Policy Center on DRR, UMK will be the first academic institution in the country which will grant a DRR post-degree program. It will also be a venue for policy research on DRR with ICT capability to deliver on the needs of the industry and the community.



Meeting during the 5 day Study Visit and 5 day Residency Program of the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery – City to City Sharing Initiative (GFDRR-C2CSI) at the President's Office of the University of Makati (May 5).

MELOTO'S CHALLENGE

Dr. Jaime G. Ocampo

Tony Meloto, an internationally renowned NGO leader, challenged the faculty and students of the University of Makati to help transform the nation by fighting poverty last June 18.

Meloto delivered his message on Transformational Leadership Towards Nation Building at the Round Table Conference organized by the the Pimentel Center for Local Governance, in coordination with the College of Governance and Public Policy, University of Makati. The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance led by its president, Gwendolyn Gana assisted in organizing the Round Table Conference.

The speaker, who was invited by Dean Alex Brillantes, had his audience alternately in awe and in stitches when he spoke of his own struggle against huge adversities before he achieved the stature and credibility of a respected crusader for a better

life for the deprived and downtrodden in Philippine society.

Meloto's presentation was casual but he did it in a stirring, if not mesmerizing manner. Among other things, the reason for his effectiveness as a communicator is that he personifies 'entrepreneurial leadership' as the founder of Gawad Kalinga. GK started on a shoestring budget that tackled the problem of shanties in a few slum areas. But now, GK has a network of multi-sectoral partners which aims to empower the poorest of the poor nationwide to rise from the clutches of poverty and become productive members of their communities.

Meloto tackled the problem of poverty and homelessness



GK Founding Father & Chairman Tony Meloto (June 18).

with a comprehensive, holistic, integrated and sustainable approach. He emphasized that society's recognition of the dignity and humanity of the poor is an essential ingredient towards liberating the marginalized sectors from the bondage of poverty.

His GK network partners, Meloto said, adhere to the positive value of "bayanihan" and self-giving that transforms slums and underdeveloped communities into more livable places. GK, he added, has now become a nation-wide movement for the empowerment of peoples and for social responsibility.

Meloto ended his discussion with a ringing challenge to the students of the University of Makati. "If you want to help transform our nation, begin with yourself. And do not be afraid of failure. If you fall, rise up and fight again and again and again for the things you believe in until you succeed."



GK Chairman Meloto (back to camera holding microphone) fields questions from the audience in the Round Table Conference on Transformational Leadership Towards Nation Building at the Center. The audience included Dean Ed Tapia, Dean Alex Brillantes, other UMac faculty, academes and students (June 18).