



# Paglaum



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## TAIWAN'S ANTI-CORRUPTION CZAR SHARES INSIGHTS



Taiwan Control Yuan Head, Wang Chien-Shien in dark suit, explains his anti-corruption work, as Nene Pimentel and Ambassador Macario Laurel listen. Ms. Sally Coyukiati (lady at left) acted as interpreter.

Taiwan's seventh highest ranking government official in charge of public accountability shared his insights on how his country battled corruption in their bureaucracy when he spoke during the regular round table discussion of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) and the Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG) at the University of Makati last August 23, 2012.

Wang Chien-Shien, head of a government body called the Control Yuan that serves as an in-house government watchdog and auditor of government performance, and an awardee as best finance minister of Asia in 1992, stressed that for a nation to progress, it must fight against corruption that pervades in government offices.

Corruption hinders a nation's economic progress because it deprives the people, specially the poor, of the needed resources and revenues intended to improve their lives, Wang Chien-Shien stressed.

He shared the Taiwan experience in rooting out corruption in major government offices.

He explained that those government offices vulnerable to corruption should first be identified.

Usually, these offices are those that handle revenue-generation functions of the government like the customs department, which he once

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### MAYOR AND THE BARANGAYS: COORDINATION, NOT CONFRONTATION

It is very important that mayors maintain a relationship of coordination, not confrontation, with the barangays, so basic services can be delivered unhampered to their common constituents.

This was the message by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who was one of the guest speakers during the two-day seminar workshop on good barangay governance for national transformation conducted by the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) at the University of Makati last August 24 and 25, 2012.

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### Word from the Center

Jesse Matters

Jesse was a man who made a difference.

As a father, he made a difference. Leni, and their daughters, Aika, Patricia, and Jilian, bear this out plainly for all to see.

As mayor of Naga City, he made a difference. The sensible people of his city say that of him.

As a member of the President's Cabinet, he made a difference. His colleagues who were falling all over one another to praise him at his wake attest to that point.

Jesse did make a differ-

ence in his family, in his community, in his country, in the world.

Not because he was all-knowing or because he was on call by mankind anywhere and at any time. He certainly was no God; omniscient or omnipresent.

Jesse mattered because he made a difference wherever he was and at any given time. At home. At play. Or at work.

Jesse was an authentic human being. Humble. Patient. And kind.

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**Mayor Alfredo Lim talks of the need for coordination, not confrontation, between the city and barangay officials that must be nurtured and maintained for the benefit and welfare of their common constituents.**

## MAYOR...

There is a “special legal bond” that connects the mayor and the barangay officials, Mayor Lim said.

This bond should be one of coordination, and not confrontation.

If the mayor and the barangays are always embroiled in disputes and confrontation, public service, specially the delivery of basic services to the barangay will be affected, to the detriment of the constituents who are in need of such services, he stressed.

“In the end, the real losers are not the elected officials,

but the constituents whom the elected officials are sworn to serve,” Mayor Lim added.

It is imperative then, for the mayor and the barangays to maintain that healthy working relationship with each other.

There must be a healthy balance between the authority of the mayor to supervise the barangays, and the policy of local autonomy to be exercised by the barangays as the smallest recognized political unit.

Lim explained that the mayor can better coordinate the city programs and projects by visiting the baran-

gays as mandated by Section 455 (b) of the Local Government Code.

By doing this, he said, the mayor can personally find out the conditions in the barangays, and see of how the city can help solve their problems.

On the other hand, Lim stressed that barangays should formulate their policies and programs in consonance with the city or municipality’s programs so that development can be attained pursuant to the city’s general agenda to improve the quality of life

of its people.

Mayor Lim advised barangays not to isolate themselves from the city because ultimately, they can fully provide the needs and benefits to their constituents if they maintain a good working relationship with the city or municipal government.

Mayor Lim revealed his style of “non-interference” with barangay affairs.

He strengthened the city’s Barangay Bureau with a plantilla of 120 workers to handle barangay concerns.

Manila has 896 barangays, and supervision would be difficult unless there is an organized system of attending to barangay matters, he explained.

In the spirit of local autonomy, Mayor Lim said the city virtually gives the barangays a free hand in managing their own affairs with minimal or no intervention all.

He said the city government automatically transfers to the barangay accounts their internal revenue, and real property tax shares.

The existence of a healthy system of checks-and-balances between the city and barangays will redound to the benefit of he people, Lim said.



**Mayor Alfredo Lim provided valuable insights on the importance of maintaining a healthy working relationship between the city and municipal governments and the barangays. He receives a citation from PILG Chair Nene Pimentel, witnessed by seminar participants**



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## TAIWAN'S...

headed, and sensitive offices like law enforcement, he said.

What Taiwan did was to drastically increase the salaries of officials occupying sensitive government positions on a temporary basis, even as high as three hundred percent of their latest salaries in a bid to discourage these officials from getting involved in corrupt activities while performing their official functions.

The goal was to increase the salaries of the entire bureaucracy in a gradual manner, prioritizing those offices that were deemed sensitive, he explained.

## CLEAN GOVERNMENT ATTRACTS INVESTORS

Wang Chien-Shien stressed that a clean, more efficient government will always attract foreign investors.

With less corruption, money is better spent in infrastructure, which always lead to a much better investment climate.

When there are foreign investors setting up businesses in the country, people benefit because they will have jobs to feed their families, he said.

He said compared to the Philippines, Taiwan is wanting in natural resources. Only one-fourth of Taiwan's land is arable, he said.

Taiwan, with a population of twenty three million, is second to the highest in the world, in terms of density.

Yet Taiwan has managed to create a robust economy, he said.

One of the contributory factors to Taiwan's economic progress is the government's investment in the education of its people.

In Taiwan, even with high population density, its people are not made a burden to society, but are transformed into human resources by giving them education, Wan Shien Chien explained.

It is important to have an educated population because this would translate to greater capabilities, and better jobs, which lead to better living conditions among the people, he said.

# Barangays vital role in climate concerns cited

The barangay plays a very important role in confronting the challenges posed by climate change, the harmful impact of which has already been felt by many Filipinos in recent typhoons and floods caused by intense rains.

This was the challenge posed by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA), through Esperanza Oblena Cayanan, Assistant Weather Services Chief, when she spoke during the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) seminar-workshop for barangay officials at the University of Makati last August 24 and 25, 2012.

Barangay officials can enact ordinances and resolutions that will protect and preserve the environment in order that the people can cope with the harmful challenges posed by climate change.

"It's all in your hands," Cayana said in her power point presentation.

She reported that due to geographical location, the Philippines is considered as one of the countries most prone to extreme climatic events and hazards.

The Philippines is vulnerable to severe floodings, as many areas of the country have recently experienced, she said.

The Philippine archipelago is composed of low lying small islands. Seventy percent of cities and municipalities are in coastal areas, which make them susceptible to flooding and storm surges, she reported.

What can the barangays do?

Barangays can do so many things to protect their people, she said.

Under the local government code, the barangay is empowered to enact ordinances and resolution for the welfare of its people.

In this light, barangays can enact ordinances to effectively manage resources in a sustainable way.

Barangays can encourage the use of renewable energy sources in their respective areas, Cayanan said in her presentation to barangay officials.

There are barangays in the country that can afford to operate renewable sources of energy because several of them receive royalties derived from the use of natural resources within their areas.

The royalties can be used to install and operate renewable sources of energy because this is designed to lower the cost of electricity in the long run.

Barangays can adopt measures for the use of recyclable materials to save energy and preserve natural resources, Cayanan reported.

Barangays can encourage their constituents to reduce the number of journeys using gas-operated vehicles and instead encourage biking, setting up bicycle lanes, and encourage walking and exercise instead.

Barangays can adopt measures pushing the use of energy-saving, long-lasting light bulbs in their respective areas.

Barangays can engage in barangay-wide campaigns to switch off lights and turn off appliances in homes when not in use.

All these practical measures the barangays can do because they are in the frontlines and are in direct contact with the people, and can make immediate yet meaningful impact specially if done collectively, in preserving our resources and protecting the environment, Cayanan said.

## WORD...

Innovative in the ways of local governance.

Persistent in pursuing its noble objectives.

Selfless in sharing credit where it is due.

Jesse as a Filipino was a tribute to our race.

He was great because he made a difference.

He is ours because he was born here, lived here, and served our people here so passionately and well.

But he also belongs to the world because greatness has no ethnicity.

Surely, God's hand guided Jesse to make a difference. And he did.

That is why aside from Leni, and their daughters; his friends, and his colleagues, even we, who as plain spectators from the sidelines, have watched him breeze through life - to make a difference - can honestly say, we miss Jesse.

Jesse is gone physically. But we know that spiritually, Jesse is still with us. And the sterling example of love of family, and of God and country that he has manifested in life will remain in the hearts of generations of our people for eternity to inspire all of us, ordinary mortals, and our local and national officials to do likewise.

Thank you, Jesse, for making a difference.

May the Lord rest your soul.



# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Nene Pimentel inducts officers of the Association of Former Kagawads of Manduluyong City. (July 28)



(L-R) Bing Pimentel, Donna Raquiza, Alex Brillantes, Hugh Nguyen, Jack Wong, Nene Pimentel, Liza and Hans Ting. (August 1)



Picture taking with guests and some UMaK Faculty. (August 22)



President Wang Chein-Shien receives the Certificate of Appreciation from Prof. Nene Pimentel (August 23).



Ronald Pacis of the Visayan Forum discusses Human Trafficking (August 24).



Dr. Esperanza Cayan of PAGASA talks about the Challenges of Climate Change to the LGUs (August 24).



Participants of the August 24-25 Barangay Seminar-Workshops led by Mrs. Reanne Cuevas.