



# Paglaurm

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



Issue No. 11 • 8 pages

September 2012

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

## RH BILL VIOLATES LOCAL AUTONOMY

Story on page 5



Participants and speakers of the September 21-22 Seminar-Workshop on Good Barangay Governance for National Transformation.

### JAILTIME IN RH BILL OPPOSED

Toto Jesus Daganan, punong barangay of New Nangka, municipality of Mabinay Negros Oriental was jolted in his seat when he learned of a provision in the hotly debated Reproductive Health bill that may send public officials like him to jail.

Daganan was one of a 28-strong contingent of punong barangays from the Visayan town of Mabinay who participated in the latest two-day seminar on good barangay governance and transformation of the Pimentel Institute of Leadership and Governance at the University of Makati last September 21 and 22, 2012.

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### Word from the Center

#### Jesse's Kind Thoughts on the LGC & UMak

In February 2012, DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo had a message for the delegates to a national conference on local governance.

Essentially, it was a message of challenge and hope.

The major points that he stressed were that:

- > The people "are tired of endless promises and claims of progress. They want to see results.
- > "Local government leaders have unique opportunities to let the people see and feel the results. You are closer to the people. You know them and they know you.
- > "The Local Government Code has provided the tools you need to make

this happen.

- > "It is one piece of legislation you should know from Book I to Book IV.
- > "We need more institutions like the University of Makati's Center for Local Governance to raise the bar in governing our nation. I hope that those who are studying here are able to bring Filipino communities in these classrooms, connecting theory with real world concerns."

You can rest assured, Mr. Secretary, that even as you are enjoying your well earned rest in the after life, the Center will take up your challenge and try its best to bring to fruition the hopes you had expressed for a better life for our people.

### ARE CONDOMS "ESSENTIAL MEDICINES"?

By Jay Dejaresco



Sen. Tito Sotto

How can condoms be considered "essential medicines"?

Senator Vicente Tito Sotto, staunch opponent of the pending Reproductive Health Bill, wondered what is the curative effect of condoms and other contraceptives that it

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Senate Majority Leader Vicente "Tito" Sotto explains his opposition to the RH Bill. (September 21).

## ARE CONDOMS...

has been considered essential medicine.

A common understanding of medicine is one that cures or treats an illness.

What illness is cured by a condom? Sotto asked.

Sotto warned that the RH bill will fund billions of pesos for the procurement and distribution of "essential medicines" which include articles for family planning like condoms and other artificial contraceptives.

The pending bill in its Section 10, states "Products and supplies for modern family planning methods shall be part of the National Drug Formulary and the same shall

*be included in the regular purchase of essential medicines and supplies of all national and local hospitals and other government health units."*

He bared that the national budget already allocates P500 million for the procurement of condoms and other contraceptives.

Sotto charged that the RH bill is an effort by international organizations to dictate upon countries like the Philippines to reduce population.

He said the RH bill seeks to mandate the use of contraceptives in the country.

Ironically, rich countries are encouraging their citizens to produce more babies by granting incentives.

He cited Singapore which gives money to couples who have more than two babies.

The US government grants tax breaks to couples with more than three children, he said.

He also cited Japan as a nation that is suffering from problems of having an "aging population, which directly affects its economy owing to scarcity of young human workforce.

"Yet in the Philippines, they want to flood our people with condoms to prevent human reproduction," the Senator said.

Sotto also disclosed that the RH bill is backed by or-

ganizations that push abortion.

He mentioned organizations like the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the local group Likhaan, that encourages or even teaches abortion.

### PNoy neutral

Senator Sotto also believes President Aquino is neutral on the RH bill.

While initially the President may have been pushing for the passage of the RH bill, that may no longer be the case today.

Sotto said he noticed that recently the president is not pushing for the RH bill's passage.

Noticeably, during the President's last State of the Nation Address, he only mentioned "responsible parenthood", Sotto said.

Sotto however acknowledged that the President is aware of the country's international commitments that favor the passage of the RH bill.


In the Senate Sotto counted ten senators who are against the RH bill.

Four of the ten are committed to vote against the RH bill, he said.


Eight senators are reportedly in favor of the passage of the bill, Sotto added.



Sen. Tito Sotto (4th from left) receives citation for expounding on the salient provisions of the Reproductive Health Bill (L-R) Hugh Nguyen, Gwen Pimentel, Roy Carandang, Sen. Tito Sotto, Nene Pimentel, King Flores, Norma Camunay and Liza Ting. (September 21)



# Paglaum



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

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## JAILTIME...

One of the key speakers of the Seminar was Senator Vicente Tito Sotto, who explained his staunch opposition to the passage of the bill on Reproductive Health or otherwise known as the RH Bill.

Punong barangay Dagnan reacted strongly to a proposed provision in the RH bill that will penalize public officials like him who may be considered to have 'restricted' the delivery of reproductive health services in his barangay.

Senator Sotto informed the barangay leaders in the seminar that under the RH bill, there are acts that public officials, including barangay officials, are prohibited from doing.

One of the prohibited acts is committed by: "Any public official who, personally or through a subordinate, prohibits or restricts the delivery of legal and medically-safe reproductive health care services, including family planning; or forces, coerces or induces any person to use such services."

Dagnan said that his barangay in New Namangka Mabinay only has a population of 400. The barangay receives an Internal Revenue Allotment of about P600,000.



Barangay Captain Toto Dagnan (Standing) airs his views on the RH bill.

He said that his barangay with a meager annual budget has other priorities like lifting the living conditions of his people.

He said that he is already having difficulty in implementing his priority project of building farm to market roads.

He said his barangay badly needs classrooms because students in his place hold their classes under mango trees.

Now he would be mandated to implement a program which will further deplete his barangay's scarce resources.

"If I fail to implement re-

productive health mandate of this bill, can I be sued under the penal provisions of the law? And I will go to jail?" he asked.

The Senate Majority Leader just quouted a section of the bill: "*Any...commission of the prohibited acts shall be penalized by imprisonment ranging from one (1) month to six (6) months or a fine of Ten Thousand (P10,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the competent court; Provided That, if the offender is a public official or employee, he or she shall suffer the accessory penalty*

*of dismissal from the government service and forfeiture of retirement benefits.*"

Dagnan said that he wants the legislators to clarify their stand on the RH bill.

He said his understanding is that barangays have local autonomy which allows local governments to implement programs in accordance with the specific needs of each local government unit.

"Now, with this RH bill, we may be compelled, under pain of imprisonment, to implement a program which may not be in accord with the priority needs of my barangay of only 400 inhabitants," he said.



Participants of the barangay seminar flank Sen. Tito Sotto and Prof. Nene Pimentel. (September 21)



# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Nene Pimentel (center, background) speaks on the proper relationship of local colleges and universities with the CHED. Teachers Camp, Baguio City. (September 8)



Nene Pimentel posing with some teachers. Teachers Camp, Baguio City. (September 8)



Prof. Nene Pimentel (holding the mic) discusses the differences between the presidential and parliamentary forms of government before students of the executive program of the University of Makati. (September 15)



UMak, PLM and UDM officials discuss the curriculum for the proposed baccalaureate degree for the barangay officials at the Center. (September 18)



Pastor King Flores celebrates his birthday at the Center. (September 19)



Martial Law Photo Exhibit at the Center. (September 21)



# RH BILL VIOLATES LOCAL AUTONOMY

By Jay Dejaresco

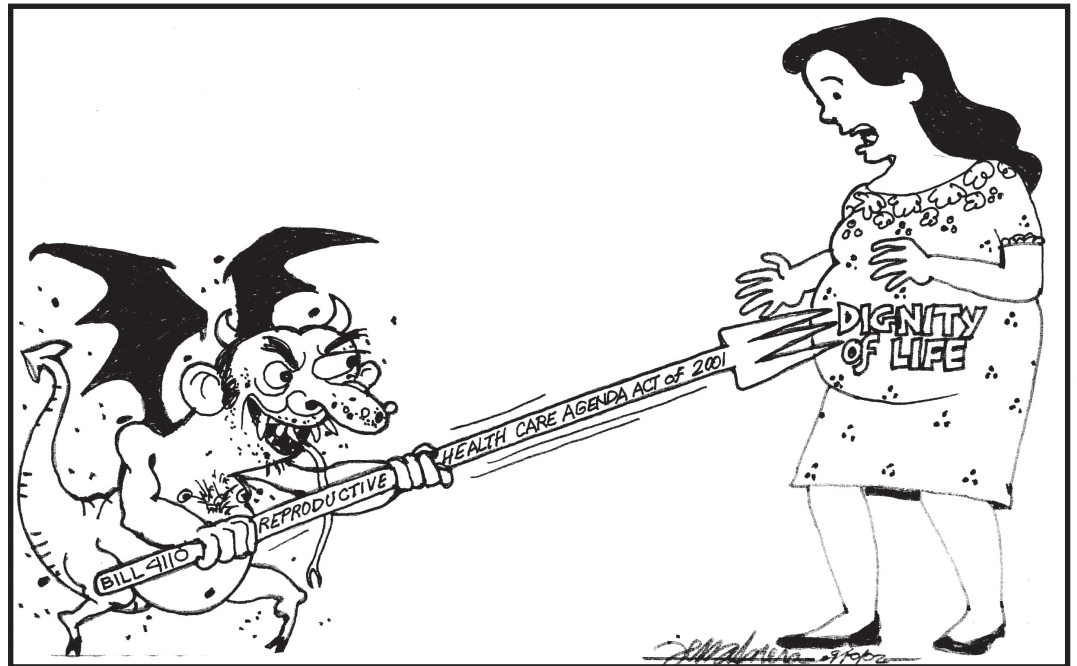
The controversial Reproductive Health bill violates of the constitutional mandate granting local autonomy to the local government units.

This was raised in a discussion of the RH bill by Senator Vicente Sotto, who spoke before barangay leaders during a two day good governance seminar conducted by the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance at the University of Makati last September 21 and 22, 2012.

The constitution guarantees local autonomy stating in Section 2 Article X that *“the territorial and political subdivisions shall enjoy local autonomy.”*

The territorial and political subdivisions are the provinces, cities, municipalities and the barangays.

Senator Sotto warned that if the RH bill is enacted, it may shackle local government officials, specially barangay leaders, from pursuing their duties in accordance with what they believe are priority programs and projects in their barangays.



Cartoon credits: Jess Abrebra of PDI

Worse, Sotto warned the barangay leaders, they can face penalties if they fail to comply with the mandate of the reproductive health measure if enacted.

Senator Sotto cited Section 28 of the RH bill which enumerates certain prohibited acts.

One of the prohibited acts under the proposed measure is that: *“Any public official who, personally or through a subordinate, prohibits or restricts the delivery of legal and med-*

*ically-safe reproductive health care services, including family planning.”*

It is a reality that many barangays have meager or scarce financial resources, mostly derived from internal revenue shares.

Barangay leaders have to prioritize their respective barangay budgets on urgent projects and activities designed to uplift the living conditions of their constituents.

Barangay leaders dur-

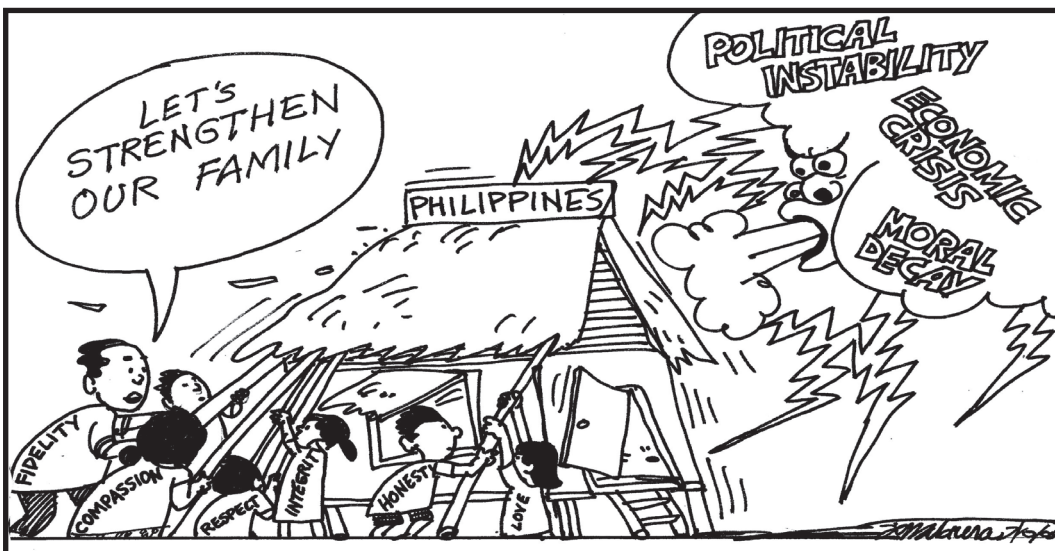
ing the seminar pointed out that their priorities are farm to market roads and education facilities for their constituents.

Reproductive health requirements may have to be imposed upon local government units under pain of penalties.

Under the reproductive health bill, penalties for failing to comply include imprisonment ranging from one (1) month to six (6) months or a fine of Ten Thousand (P 10,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) or both.

Worse, if the offender is a public official or employee, he or she shall suffer the accessory penalty of dismissal from the government service and forfeiture of retirement benefits.

Sotto said forcing local government units and their leaders to perform the mandate of a reproductive health law would run counter to the thrusts of local autonomy mandated by the constitution.



## ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION MECHANICS

### OBJECTIVES

1. To create awareness for the PCLG and to promote its thrusts.
2. To provide the students of the UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI with the opportunity to express their ideals and community concerns through essay writing.
3. To enable the students of UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI to apply skills learned in their English Grammar and writing classes.
4. To inspire the students of the UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI to participate and compete in a competition aimed at community awareness.

### WHO CAN JOIN

Bona fide students of the University of Makati from any year level and any course program. All enrolled students of the university and K-12 are encouraged to join the competition. A photocopy of the COR (Certificate of Registration) is required to qualify.

### THE BOARD OF JUDGES

The members of the Board of Judges who will convene as a group to determine the winners will include professionals with good reputation as writers, authors, journalists or English and literature teachers. This group will be chosen and appointed by the PCLG.

### MECHANICS

- 1) All essays must be in American English, with a minimum of four pages and a maximum of 7 pages.
- 2) All essays should adhere to the theme given for each year level, as follows:

***"A Day in the Life of a Barangay Official"***

- 3) Essays should be written after interviewing the barangay official in his or her particular barangay.
- 4) All entries should follow the following specifications in order to qualify:

Microsoft Word

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12

Spacing: Double spaced

Paper Size: Letter (8.5" x 11")  
with 1" margin on all sides

Ink: Black

- 5) To allow anonymity during judging, references to the work of the contestant should not be indicated by name in the text or footnotes, or in any other part of the entry. The essay itself should be submitted to the judges sealed inside a short brown envelope. Any references or distinguishing marks made on the entry or on the envelopes would mean disqualification.
- 6) Each entry should use a byline or pen name, the details of which (byline, name, course and year level, contact numbers, picture with interviewed barangay official, email, and photocopy of the COR) should be enclosed in a letter-size white envelope, sealed, and submitted to the board of judges, separate from the entry.
- 7) Entries should be submitted to the Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG), 4th Floor, Administration Building, University of Makati. Entries received will be assigned a number and logged in the PCLG entry receipt file. Deadline of entries is on 15 November 2012, Thursday, at 5pm. Entries received after the deadline will be disqualified.
- 8) The Board of Judges, composed of three (3) members will convene as a group to judge the entries and determine the winner. During judging, the Board of Judges and its members will only be able to distinguish one entry from another by means of the assigned numbers.
- 9) The Board of Judges reserves the right to require a panel interview with the 10 essay finalists in order to verify that the ideas presented are from the author himself.
- 10) The winners shall be judged based on the criteria specific to this competition. The first, second and third place winners will be awarded based on the average scores from all judges. There will also be

The Pimentel Center for Local Governance  
University of Makati  
and  
The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

**INVITE**

all K-12 and university students of UMaK to join the

# ENGLISH ESSAY CONTEST

*with the topic  
"A Day in the Life  
of a Barangay Official"*

**Cash and other prizes await the winners.**

**Deadline for Entries:  
November 15, 2012  
Awarding Ceremony:  
December 14, 2012**

**For details, call:  
Clarisse Aquino  
Pimentel Center  
Tel: 8820678 loc. 307**



special awards given to essays with extraordinary ideas and content. The Board of Judges' decision is considered final and non-contestable.

### PRIZES

<b>1st Place -</b>	<b>P 20,000.00</b>
<b>2nd Place -</b>	<b>P 15,000.00</b>
<b>3rd Place -</b>	<b>P 10,000.00</b>

### CRITERIA

The essays will be judged based on content and development (40%), organization (30%), and grammar and mechanics (30%).

### CONTENT AND DEVELOPMENT (40 points)

The contestants' knowledge and depth of understanding about the issues being addressed will be demonstrated by the quality of their essays.

- a. Does the essay have an innovative idea? (20 points)
- b. Do vocabulary and word usage enhance the essay? (10 points)
- c. Is the reader left with a "finished" feeling? (10 points)

### ORGANIZATION (30 points)

One goal of the contest is to encourage contestants to develop their own perspective on community issues. This perspective should be reflected in their analysis of a complex issue, and presentation of clear, concise arguments to support their point of view.

- a. Is the main idea well developed throughout the essay? (150 points)
- b. Is the essay well organized? (10 points)
- c. Is the point of view consistent throughout? (5 points)

### GRAMMAR AND MECHANICS (30 points)

The competition is designed to promote good writing as well as serious thinking. The clarity of presentation and quality of writing will also figure in the score.

- a. Are spelling, capitalization, and punctuation correct? (10 points)
- b. Is the sentence structure correct? (10 points)
- c. Is the paragraphing appropriate? (5 points)
- d. Is the essay consistent in tense? (5 points)





# UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI ACTIVITIES



By Reneliza M. Ferrer

## ADOPT-A-SCHOOL LAUNCHED



Dr. Edita I. Chan, (Umak Executive Vice President) Hon. Condralito B. Dela Cruz, (Municipal Mayor) Mr. Edwin L. Abuque (Barangay Chairman) and Dir. Lhiza Ferrer signing an MOU.

Extension is one of the three major functions of higher education according to Commission on Higher Education (CHED) which is in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act. No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”, for the purpose of promoting/enhancing the Extension function of Higher Education Institutions, and pursuant to Resolution No. 083-20.



This is the underlying principle of UMak-CESELE KABALIKAT which recently launched the Adopt-a-School/Community in accordance with the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding last August 3, 2012 at Municipality of Porac, Pampanga. UMak delegates were led by our Executive Vice President, Dr. Edita I. Chan, Head-Filipino Department, Dr. Loreta E. Catipon, Faculty/ Students of the Filipino Department, League of UMak Volunteers, CESELE Staff and of course, the energetic CESELE Director, Prof Lhiza Ferrer. The UMak delegates were given a very warm welcome by the Municipal Officials headed by Mayor Condralito B. de la Cruz and his Vice Mayor together with the members of Municipal Council and Barangay Chairman of Pasbul-Kamias, Mr. Edwin L. Abuque. Before the launching and signing of MOU the team joined the municipal officials in the celebration of the First Friday Mass.



# WORKSHOP ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

CESELE, in coordination with the College of Computer Science and Icon Youth of Low (Light of the World), conducted a Motivational Life Process Workshop entitled "Suicidal Prevention" for the CCS students held last August 14.

The members of the LOW gave their best presentations to enlighten the students the importance of knowing themselves and putting God first in their lives. Engr. Estrella O. Chan (Dean-College of Computer Science), Pastor Eduardo Obra of the Light of the World, Prof. Corazon E. Benosa (Head-Software Department) and the very supportive Dr. Edita Intia Chan (Executive Vice President) graced the occasion.

CESELE is grateful to the members of the LOW from different universities and colleges who performed as actors on the said workshop. They did a sing and dance mem-

ber to the tune of Christian music and the CCS students were amazed and happy with the showcase of talents of the said group.

This workshop help enlightened our participants to become values-oriented and to be aware of how God works in our life. The participants also learned the seven sins listed by Mahatma Gandhi. These are wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principles.

The workshop seminar focused on the moral values that present a true perspec-



tive of the development of any society or nation and tell us to what extent a society and a nation has developed itself.

Values are virtues, ideals and qualities on which actions and beliefs are based. It has been said that values are the guiding principles that shape our world outlook, attitudes and conduct. A speaker

at the seminar also enumerated the innate values which are our inborn divine virtues such as love, peace, happiness, mercy, and compassion as well as the positive moral qualities such as respect, humility, tolerance, responsibility, cooperation, honesty and simplicity.

# UMAK HELPS HABAGAT VICTIMS

On August 19, 2012, the UMAK-CESELE launched relief operations for the families in Calumpit, Bulacan who were affected by Habagat. The project was made possible by the support of the following: Office of the President, Office of the Executive Vice President, Design Center

for Nation Building (DCNB-NSTP), Philippine Naval Reserve Command (Phil. Navy), Higher School ng UMak, CESCA, Barangay San Antonio, League of Volunteers, 270th NROTC, members of the Corps of Sponsors, Colleges and Centers of Umak, UNSCA, CCS-Faculty, Office

of the Vice President for Administration headed by Prof. Raymundo P. Arcega and UFRO headed by Ms. Amelita F. Nazareno.

Four hundred eight bags were gathered through the help of our students, private individuals and other govern-

ment agencies in order that made this endeavor possible. Four hundred families were the recipients from four barangays in Calumpit Bulacan such as Barangay Corazon, Sapang Bayan, Poblacion and Mendoza which were still under water during the relief operations.



League of UMak Volunteers in Action.



Dir. Lhiza Ferrer helping out in relief distributions.