



# Paglaum

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



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

## LAWMAKERS GRACE CONTESTS

By Clarisse Aquino



Congresswoman Cynthia Villar



Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr.



Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

### PILG HOSTS DIALOGUE WITH LAO DELEGATES

By Jay Dejaresco

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance led by its Chairman Prof. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., hosted a dialogue last November 27, at the Center with a delegation of officials from the Lao People's Democratic Republic in connection with the latter's desire to know more about decentralization efforts of our government, local governance and land use planning.

The eleven-man delegation from Lao People's Democratic Republic was led by Somsanith Souvanalath, Deputy Head of the Lao

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### Word from the Center Holiday Tree in Winterval?

Will we, in this generation or those in the next, see the day in our country when the word 'Christmas' is replaced by 'Winterval' and 'Christmas Tree' by a 'Holiday Tree'?

Or when the Christ's connection with Christmas is completely erased from this civilization's memory and vocabulary?

Indeed, it still is November but in a few days, it will be December, the month when the Christ was born.

Thus, the questions have to be asked and perhaps confronted by our country's believers in the basic tenet of Christianity that the Christ was born on Christmas Day to save mankind from evil.

Otherwise, before we know it what some people are now doing in Waterford, Ireland,

Birmingham City in the UK, and Sta. Monica in California, USA, among other western countries, that advocate the secularization of Christmas, the removal of any mention of the Christ from the season, and the prohibition of displays of the Nativity scenes in government-owned properties would drown out the most basic reason for our people's Christmas celebration.

As Pastor King, a fellow of the Center, is wont to say, 'One cannot remove the 'Reason for the Season' without affecting the why, the wherefore, and the how of our celebrating Christmas as Christians.

As believers, to us, Christmas and the Christ are inextricably linked. Without the Christ in Christmas why bother commemorating Christmas Day at all?

Senators Aquilino 'Koko' Pimentel III, Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr., and Rep. Cynthia Villar of Las Pinas City will be the guests of honor during the awarding ceremonies of the essay and nativitiyan contests in the University of Makati on December 10, 2012.

The essay contest and the Nativitiyan are among the yearly projects and initiatives of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) and the Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG).

Each year the PILG and the PCLG hold an essay contest among students of the University of Makati, drawing ideas and thoughts through writing among young participants

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## LAWMAKERS...

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about the barangay, the smallest political unit and its impact to the development of the community and the nation.

On the other hand, the whole University of Makati community, through its different departments, is involved in the nativitihan contest every December, where participants construct the most relevant and meaningful Belen.

Through the nativitihan contest, the buildings University of Makati are adorned with a depiction of the nativity, symbolizing the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the essay writing contest, the topic is: "A Day in the Life of a Barangay Captain". There are sixteen entries for the essay writing contest this year.

This subject hopes to bring out how the head of the barangay exercises his or her role as a leader and servant to his constituents.

The awarding of prizes of the es-

say and nativitihan contests will be on December 10, 2012 at the Mini-Theatre of the University of Makati at 10 a.m.

Senators Pimentel and Marcos, and Rep. Cynthia Villar will highlight the ceremonies by sharing their experiences as public officials in helping to strengthen the local government units, particularly the barangay, as frontliners in the delivery of services to the people.

Senator Bongbong Marcos Jr. is currently the chair of the Senate Committee on Local Governments.

Senator Koko Pimentel has authored several bills in the Senate seeking to further empower the local government units.

Particularly, Senator Pimentel seeks to increase the shares of the local government units from the national taxes so that more basic services can be extended for the benefit of the people.

During the awarding ceremo-

nies on December 10, 2012, the program will begin with a welcome address by Dr. Edita Chan, Executive Vice President of the University of Makati.

The winners of the essay contest will then be announced, with Senator Marcos awarding the prizes to the winners, including medals and certificates of appreciation. Senator Marcos will then give a brief message to the students and the faculty.

This will be followed by the announcement of the winners of the nativitihan, with Rep. Cynthia Villar awarding the prizes to the winners, before she gives her message.

Thereafter, a winner will also be selected for the Nativitihan with ecological stress, to be awarded by Senator Pimentel III. The ceremonies will be capped by closing remarks by Prof. Aquilino Nene Pimentel Jr., Chair of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance.

## CENTER TO HOLD PLANNING SESSIONS FOR 2013

By Jay Dejaresco

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance, together with the Pimentel Center for Local Governance will hold a planning session on December 5, 2012 to firm up activities of the Institute for next year.

Among the highlights of the PILG-PCLG activities this year were the barangay seminars for leadership and national transformation, and the roundtable discussions with several speakers who are noted for their expertise and familiarity in the subjects tackled during the discussions.

The PILG hopes to conduct more seminars among barangay leaders all over the

country.

Another approach being planned is to team up with educational institutions nationwide to broaden the coverage of barangay leaders who can take part in the barangay leadership seminars.

For 2012, the PILG/PCLG conducted seven seminars for barangay leaders participated in by 214 barangay kagawads, punong barangays, Sangguniang Kabataan leaders and other local officials.

This brings to a total of 1,979 participants to the barangay seminars since it began in 2012.

This year 2012, there were ten roundtable discussions

held which tackled current issues affecting the nation.



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Editorial Director	<b>Jay Dejaresco</b>
Contributing Writers	<b>Alex Brillantes Roy Carandang Reneliza Ferrer Jaime Ocampo Nene Pimentel Raymund Rosuelo Ed Tapia Cris Uy</b>
Artist/Photographer	<b>reyronda</b>
Publisher	<b>Gwen Gana</b>
Editorial Consultant	<b>Coylee Gamboa</b>
Editorial Staff	<b>Clarisse Aquino Maelyn Calizo Carla Caringal</b>

Pimentel Center for Local Governance  
Pimentel Institute for Leadership & Governance  
4th Floor Administration Building, University of Makati,  
JP Rizal Extension, West Rembo, Makati City  
Telephone No.: 882-0678 loc 307  
Email: [info@pimentelinstitute.org](mailto:info@pimentelinstitute.org), [rcroffice@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:rcroffice@yahoo.com.ph)  
Website: [www.pimentelinstitute.org](http://www.pimentelinstitute.org)

**PILG...**

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National Committee on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (NCRDPE).

The other delegates were Thiphasone Soukhathammavong, Mr. Khamphay Vilayhong, Ms. Chanfong Keoboungnong, Mr. Phetsay Phiathep, Mr. Lienthong Souphany, Mr. Bounchanh Ni-yavong, Mr. Kham-sone Sysanhouth, Mr. Philip Bontuyan, Ms. Viengvila Sirimoungk-houne and Mr. Sangthong Phatsalin.

The Lao visitors sought to learn how the Philippines was able to transform its government structure from a deeply centralized system, to a system of greater empowerment to local governments.

They wanted to know the institutions and agencies of government involved in decentralized government.

The delegates also wished to find out how local development planning is being done.

The visiting delegation also asked how land use planning is being done in the Philippines.

In their visit Prof. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. briefed the delegates on the history of decentralization and devolution in the Philippines, since the



**Dean Alex Brillantes (holding the microphone) discusses the rationale behind the visit of the officials of the Lao People's Republic to the Pimentel Center.**

**Listening at the table are Somsanith Souvanalath, head of the Lao People's Republic delegation hands, Prof. Nene Pimentel (at the Center) and EVP Edita Chan, of the University of Makati. At the left table are seated some of the members of the Lao delegation.**

Spanish colonial period until the enactment of Republic Act 9160, known as the local government code in 1991.

Pimentel explained that in the past, the Philippines also experienced having a highly centralized form of government.

However, at present, local governments are endowed with powers that used to be exercised exclusively by the national government like police power, which is the power to promote the general welfare of the people.

Local governments now also have the power of taxation, meaning local governments can exact and collect certain taxes.

Local governments also have been given the powers of eminent domain which is to take private property for public use, upon payment of just compensation.

Pimentel explained that devolution means granting powers and funds to local government units to use in their development without dictation or interference from the central governments.

Local government units now have a fairly large share in the national internal revenue taxes collected by the national government, which funds are used for the projects and programs of the local government units.



**Somsanith Souvanalath, head of the Lao People's delegation hands over a memento to Prof. Pimentel. Watching the proceedings are Khamphay Vilayhong, and Thiphasone Soukhathammavong, and to Prof. Pimentel's right are Dean Ed Tapia, Pastor Hugh Nguyen, Dean Alex Brillantes at background, Prof. Raymund Rosuelo, who acted as the emcee of the affair.**



**Prof. Nene Pimentel gives a copy of his 2011 book, the Local Government Code of 1991 Revised, to Somsanith Souvanalath, Lao delegation head.**

# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Dean Ederson Tapia receives a birthday cake from PILG Secretary Clarisse Aquino at the Center. (November 14)



Local officials and politicians from Majayjay, Laguna led by Former Mayor Victorino Rodillas pose for a picture with Prof. Nene Pimentel, King Flores and Liza Ting. (November 21)



Prof. Nene Pimentel receives guests at the PILG office. Seated from left are Warly Guera, Pimentel, Rey Sandico, and Pastor King Flores. Behind is PILG fellow Liza Ting and Edwin Sandico. (November 21)



PILG fellows led by Prof. Nene Pimentel Jr. (seated center) hosted delegates from Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic led by Somsanith Souvanalath (seated left) in a roundtable discussion last Nov. 29.



Prof. Nene Pimentel speaks on the topic of Barangay Officials as Agents of Change at the annual assembly of the barangay officials of the City of Mandaluyong at the Holiday Hotel in Subic. (November 24). Seated immediately behind him may be seen Mayor Benhur Abalos and other officials of the city.