



Paglaurm

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



Issue No. 14 • 8 pages

December 2012

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



ESSAY WRITING, NATIVITYHAN WINNERS BAG AWARDS

(L-R) Atty. Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, Prof. Alex Brillantes, Sen. Koko Pimentel, Rep. Cynthia Villar, Kevin-Ian Canono, UMak EVP Edita Chan, Prof. Nene Pimentel and Prof. Jimmy Ocampo. (Photo: Alex Nuevaespaña/PRIB)

MORE BRGY DADS JOIN SEMINARS

By Jay Dejaresco

On its third year, the regular seminar on good barangay governance for national transformation of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG), together with the Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG) has continued to reach out to more barangay officials all over the country.

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Word from the Center

WHY NOT?

After an hour and forty six minutes flight from Manila northward, one lands in Taipeh, the capital city of Taiwan.

And what does one see in Taipeh? People whose material needs appear satisfied. They live in homes and work in places fit for human beings. Skyscrapers dot their capital city. Cars, computers, and products made in Taiwan dominate their business environment. Clear evidence of the positive effects of the island's industrialization.

Does Taiwan still need

anything?

Of course, it does. And in terms of its industrial necessities, the most immediate are the natural resources to keep its productive wheels turning.

Where does Taiwan get those resources? From anywhere in the world.

Is there any place on earth that Taiwan can get the resources closer to home and perhaps, at lower costs?

Certainly. And that is the Philippines.

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The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) has bared the winners of the annual Essay Writing and Nativityhan contests held among students of the University of Makati.

The two contests are two of the annual activities initiated by the PILG, in a bid to heighten consciousness among students on the importance and relevance of the barangay and local governments to the live of ordinary people.

This year, the essay writing contest topic was titled "A Day in the

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ESSAY

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Life of a Barangay Official”

Essay writing participants were made to conduct personal interviews with selected barangay officials in different localities.

The participants were asked to profile a selected barangay official by trying to learn and relay what a barangay official does in the service of his community.

This year's first place winner is Reuben James M. Ramos, a third year English student of the University of Makati.

His winning piece, written under the pen name “taga-suro” describes a barangay official through a clever acronym coined from the life lessons which he learned from the barangay official he profiled.

Second placer is Kevin-Ian B. Canono, a senior BS Marketing student who wrote his piece under the pen name “Bol-pen”.

In his essay Kevin-Ian recounts the story of a barangay official who surmounts the many trials he faced in his personal and public life.

Third place winner is Dave G. Reyes, a third year English student who wrote his piece under the name “Existence”.

In his piece, Dave wrote about how the little-appreciated service that a barangay official renders deserves recognition, appreciation and gratitude.

Consolation prize winner is Princess Sarah P. Evangelista an HSU K-11 student who wrote her piece under the name “Backie”.

The topic for the es-

say writing contest — “A Day in the Life of a Barangay Official” — was chosen to help students understand transformational leadership and the importance of picking the right officials by getting acquainted with them.

Meanwhile, bagging this year's top prize for the Nativitihan contest is the Higher School ng Umak K to 12 which set up their version of the nativity at the 2nd floor of Building 2 of the University of Makati.

Second placer is the Design Center for Nation Building (DCNB), with their winning nativity design installed at the 4th floor of Building 2.

Third place in the Nativitihan contest is the College of Business Administration, whose Nativitihan entry was set up on the third floor of building 3.

WORD

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The Philippines and Taiwan should, perhaps, get together and work out an economic union of sorts. A union that would enable the Philippines to supply raw materials for Taiwan's industrial needs and the latter to share its industrial prowess with the former – a symbiotic relationship that will certainly be mutually beneficial to both nations.

For sure there will be obstacles. Coming mainly from the world's superpowers: the US and China.

But if the peoples of Taiwan and the Philippines get their act together, despite obstacles, the economic union – that is still a dream as of the moment – between the two nations could become a reality for the good of our two peoples sooner than later.



Essay Writing 1st Prize winner Reuben James Ramos, 3rd Prize winner Dave Reyes, Prof. Nene Pimentel, 2nd prize winner Kevin-Ian Canono.



Paglaum



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

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NATIVITYHAN (BELEN) CONTEST WINNERS



(L-R) King Flores, Atty. Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, Prof. Alex Brillantes, Dean Eliseo Co, Sen. Koko Pimentel, Rep. Cynthia Villar, Leonora Burgos, Dr. Gloria Mallari, Dr. Teodora Sabater, Pilar Dilla, Dir. Analie Sancho, UMak EVP Edita Chan, Prof. Nene Pimentel and Prof. Jimmy Ocampo. (Photo: Alex Nuevaespaña/PRIB)



Higher School ng UMak (K-12) bagged the 1st prize.



Design Center for Nation Building received the 2nd prize award.



College of Business Administration garnered the 3rd prize title.



College of Technology Management declared as the Eco-friendly winner.

RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



PILG/PCLG in a Planning Session with guest Former National Treasurer Norma Lasala (holding the microphone). December 5



PILG Fellows meet with Dr. David Phiemon from Chicago and Bishop Tony Marioghae, Pres. of TEAM Ministries International. (December 5)



Prof. Nene Pimentel (standing) speaks on Bangsamoro Peace Process at PEN Convention at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. (December 7).



Prof. Nene Pimentel (standing) keynotes the Citizens and Leaders for National Transformation during the 7th National Congress on Good Citizenship at the Commission on Higher Education. (December 8).



Sen. Koko Pimentel delivers an inspiring message during the awarding ceremony of the Essay and Nativityhan Constests at UMaK. (December 10).



Rep. Cynthia Villar emphasizes the importance of the nativity in the celebration of Christmas during the awarding ceremony of the Essay and Nativityhan Constests at UMaK. (December 10).



Rep. Cynthia Villar and Sen. Koko Pimentel receives certificate of appreciation from UMaK EVP Edita Chan and Prof. Nene Pimentel. (December 10).



Rep. Cynthia Villar with the winners of the Essay Writing competition. (December 10). 3rd Prize winner Dave Reyes, 1st Prize winner Reuben James Ramos, and 2nd prize winner Kevin-Ian Canono. (December 10).



(L-R): VP Adelina Patriarca, EVP Edita Chan, Dr. Jimmy Ocampo, Dr. Norma Camunay and Dean Ed Tapia sing happy birthday for Prof. Nene. (December 11).



PILG/PCLG celebrates their Christmas Party. With the traditional exchange of gift among fellows and staff held at the seminar hall. (December 11).



Prof. Nene Pimentel (standing) speaks on Peace Process during the Public Forum on Bangsamoro Framework Agreement at the Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City. (December 15).



Prof. Nene with Retired SB Justice Ma. Cristina Estrada, Ret. SC Justice Minita Chico-Nazario and Ret. SB Justice Raoul V. Victorino at the Pimentel library.

WINNING ESSAY PROFILES BARANGAY LEADER WITH "GIFTS"

BY REUBEN JAMES RAMOS

Summarized By Jay Dejaresco



Reuben James Ramos.

From the very hour that I entered the barangay hall to experience a day with our Barangay Captain, I already expected that this will again be another learning experience, and I know for sure that I will learn much from this. And so I did.

November 10, 2012, I had my day with Mrs. Terisita V. Diaz, our Barangay Captain at Barangay 159, Malibay, Pasay City.

Kap. Diaz is an adopted daughter of Mr. Telesforo R. Victoria, a policeman, and Mrs. Elena S. Victoria, a housekeeper. Kap. Has been with them since the time of her birth. Because of poverty, as she said, her parents gave her away. Although just an adopted daughter, Kap. Diaz said that she felt the real essence of a family in the care of her foster parents.

They loved her very much and they sacrificed a lot for her. But time came when they couldn't already afford to send her for college. So she decided to work in between her studies. She started to sell Tsinelas and she also became a part time dancer at ABS-CBN. And she said, those two life experiences really taught her a lot. In ABS-CBN, she leaned to connect with people and understand that relation-

ship is a very important thing in life; and in her Buy and Sell of Tsinelas she learned that helping people makes you feel good and it gives you that sense of fulfillment.

The family where she grew up didn't develop her love for politics. Politics never entered their house and nobody in their family seemed to be interested in it. She just observed that from her childhood to her married life, there is this thing that sprouted like a planted seed in her heart—the passion to help.

At the age of 19 she met Mr. Danilo O. Diaz who soon became her husband. They were blessed with four kids, all girls: the eldest is Thelma, next is Sylvia, then Amelie, then came Leonar who became the youngest.

She was already in her early thirties when she became the Barangay Captain of Barangay 158 in Malibay Pasay. While on the position, she still can't believe it that she is already a Barangay Captain because as she said "I don't really like to be in the politics! I'm afraid of being there. I didn't and I never planned to be a Barangay Captain. But I believe that God has a purpose in putting me here, so I made this as my life's mission." She never treated becoming a barangay official as an occupation, she told me that her passion to help fueled her to really go on with public service and make it her life's mission.

What a leader should possess and what should she have in order to manage her constituents? When I asked Kap. Diaz about that, she gave five simple things as an answer. I made an acronym for her answers which is "GIFTS"

G- GOD FEARING. A leader should have that ultimate reverence for GOD. That reverential fear as she said will keep the leader from committing sins as she leads

his people. That's why she made it a point in her life to really have that strong connection to GOD. She attends worship services at Bible Baptist Church of Pasay and she prays a lot. In everything that she does, she asks GOD for guidance and wisdom. She always believes that a leader who fears no one, especially GOD, will bring you to nowhere. This fear in GOD, for her, is the most important discipline that a barangay official should have because only GOD could give you success and victory, and this discipline, she added, could only be developed when you surrendered your life to GOD wholly.

INFLUENTIAL is for "I". A leader should have the skill to encourage people to always take part in any barangay activity. This influence should not only be seen in your words but especially in your actions. A leader who doesn't have the skill of influencing her constituents to follow is a questionable leader.

"F" is FAITHFUL. Faithfulness is tantamount to loyalty. A leader should never betray the public trust Kap. Diaz said. A leader should always be true to what she had promised. She should always be willing to perform the task that she pledged to accomplish. Faithfulness in attaining the barangay's goal for betterment should always be in her. Your faithfulness also helps you foster efficiency and productivity in the barangay.

A leader should be **TRUSTWORTHY** and that is for our "T". Kap. Diaz said that a leader who could not be trusted could not influence her followers. In the Barangay, Kap said that this is really essential because when the people trust you and feel safe about you, they would be willing to join and support your projects. Kap. Required two things in order for you to be trustworthy—the C2: Character and

Competence. You should be competent as a leader. And in order to be competent, Kap. Diaz said that you should always be willing to learn, re-learn, and unlearn. You should always be teachable. For you to be a characterized person, you should develop a set of good values. Being true to your words is one example. And Kap. Diaz said that your strength to fight and stand against corruption is one of the biggest manifestation of you being a leader with character. That's why even at the expense of her personal conveniences, she still does her best to protect her community against corruption.

And lastly, **"S" for selflessness.** In serving the public, she emphasized that you got to be selfless because you'll be sacrificing a lot. She sacrificed her dreams in life, her personal needs, and her safety. Your calling as a barangay official, she added, is not like any other 8 hour job, it is a 24/7 service, no holidays. There are also times that she needed to sacrifice even her family and friends for the sake of serving.

Kap Diaz is already on the fourth term of her service, she's already been serving for almost 15 years. As she ends her term this coming year, she said that she has no plan running for a higher position anymore, but she might probably run as Kagawad. And although her works and accomplishments were not recognized and were not given an award it's just ok with her as she said "I don't care who gets the credit as long as God gets the glory". And the only thing that really fulfills her as a barangay captain is not the award but the love and respect of her constituents for her.

In my entire life, I would never forget this day... my day in a life of a barangay official... a day of learning... really....

MORE DADS

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Based on its year-end data, 1,979 local government officials, mostly composed of punong barangays and their kagawads have sharpened their skills and enhanced their knowhow in running the affairs of the barangay through the PILG/PCLG seminars.

In line with its commitment to promote competent, ethical and innovative leadership in the public sector, the PILG and PCLG holds regular monthly seminars on good barangay governance for national transforation.

This year 2012, the PILG/PCLG conducted its 11th to 17th seminar held at the PILG's own seminar hall at the 4th floor of the University of Makati.

The 11th seminar-workshop was held on March 22 and 23,



Seated (L-R) Prof. Nene Pimentel, Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Sec. Voltaire Gazmin of Department of National Defense with Gen. Luna, Quezon Participants. (March 22)

joined by 33 participants.

The 12th seminar-workshop was held on April 27 and 28, joined by 24 participants.

The 13th seminar workshop was held on May 25 and 26, joined by 29 participants.

The 14th seminar workshop was held on July 20 and 21, joined by 33 participants.

The 15th seminar workshop was held on August 24 and 25, joined by 32 participants.

The 16th seminar workshop was held on September 21 and 22, joined by 34 participants.

The 17th seminar workshop was held at the World Trade Building in Binondo on October 19 and 20, joined by 37 participants who were barangay officials of Manila.

Data gathered showed the barangay officials who took part in the training came from Quezon province,

Bohol, Las Pinas, Mandaluyong and Pasay Cities, Cebu, Quezon City, Cavite, Misamis Oriental, Malabon, Pasay, Isabela, Surigao, Rizal, Paranque and Manila, Nueva Ecija, Albay, Compostela Valley, Negros Oriental, Palawan, Batangas.

Next year the PILG/PCLG hopes to hold more seminars in various regions, as it plans to forge partnerships with educational institutions.



Seated Mayor Alfredo Lim (yellow shirt) and Prof. Nene Pimentel (blue Barong with Payalan City, Nueva Ecija Participants. (August 25)



Senator Tito Sotto with the barangay captains of Mabinay Negros Oriental during the barangay seminar.(September 21).

TAIWAN MINISTER IS YEAREND GUEST OF PILG ROUNDTABLE TALKS

By Clarisse Aquino

A top official and advisor of the government of Taiwan was the yearend guest and visitor of the roundtable discussion at the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance at the University of Makati last December 21.

Minister Chung is a Professor of Public Administration, National Chengchi University (Taiwan).

Visiting Minister Chung Yuang Jan, PhD, Minister without Portfolio, Examination Yuan, of Taipei, capped the year of discussions on current events and issues, where he exchanged views on the recent developments in Taiwan in the area of public administration and local governance, with experts on local governance in the Philippines led by former Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., during the roundtable discussion.

Professor Nene Pimentel briefed the visiting Minister on the development of local governance among the various political subdivisions from the barangay, municipalities, cities and provinces.

Meanwhile, Minister Chung Yuang Jan also explained the developments in public administration and local governance in his country

He said Public administra-



Taiwan Minister Chung Yuang Jan, explains the stride undertaken by the Taiwan government in the field of local governance, as Nene Pimentel (right) and Ret. SB Justice Ma. Cristina Estrada and Ret. SC Justice Minita Chico-Nazario listen. (December 21)

tion reforms have been undertaken in Taiwan by lessening the number of public ministries from thirty seven to twenty nine to make their government more efficient.

He also spoke about the current trends in local governance in Taiwan which include efforts towards what he called "metropolitanization", which is converting local units into a metropolitan form of government.

The idea of converting into a metropolis is to enable the newly formed metropolitan government to increase its

share of the revenues from the national government.

Efforts to convert into a metropolis is noted to be similar to efforts of municipalities in the Philippines to convert into cities.

Professor Nene Pimentel explained that the deluge of municipalities seeking to convert into cities is attributed to the automatic increase in the share of the internal revenue share once the local government unit 'graduates' from a municipality to become a city.

Minister Chung also bared the noted increase in the in-

terest in the study of local governance as a way of pushing development, particularly among those in the more remote areas.

The year end roundtable discussion of PILG was graced by members of the academe as well as from legal profession, which included Retired Supreme Court Justice Minita Chico Nazario, Retired Sandiganbayan Justices Ma. Cristina Estrada, and Raul V. Victoriano. Former National Treasurer Norma Lasala was also present, as well as fellows and professors and students from the University of Makati.



Prof. Alex Brillantes (3rd from right) facilitates the roundtable discussion with Minister Chung Yuang Jan (left) who gave an overview of the reforms of Taipei in the area of public administration and local governance.



Participants of the Forum with Taiwan Minister Chung Yuang-Jan, consisting of a cross section of society including jurists and members of the academe and non-government organization.