



# Paglaum

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



Issue No. 19 • 4 pages

April 2013

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



Comm. May Fernandez

## GRADUATES TOLD: PUBLIC SERVICE AN HONOR

By Jay Dejaresco

Former Civil Service Commissioner Mary Ann Z. Fernandez-Mendoza urged graduates of the College of Governance and Public Policy (CGPP) of the University of Makati, to always be reminded that to be in public service is both a blessing and an honor.

Fernandez-Mendoza was guest speaker during the 40th commencement exercises of the (CGPP).

*“Isang karangalan ang maglinkod sa bayan,”* Fernandez-Mendoza said.

We have to remind ourselves that “Public office is a Public Trust, she stressed.

This is because only those who went through a rigorous process and met the qualification requirements were allowed to enter public service.

Fernandez-Mendoza said that those in public service are trusted that they will perform what is expected and they will always be accountable to the Filipino people.

She also urged the graduates to ensure that the public continue to trust those in government.

“In the agencies you are connected with or in positions you are occupying, continue to demonstrate accountability and integrity,” told the graduates.

In her speech Fernandez-Mendoza also reminded the graduates that public service is stewardship which entails several duties.

“Our first duty as steward is to put to good use all the resources that go with the position such as financial, human resource, authorities and other resources that have been given to us,” she said.

Second is to always account for decisions made.

The third is to be always ready to be monitored and audited.

Fourth and the deepest element of stewardship and accountability is when we are genuinely aware that we are accountable to the true owners of the resources, the Filipino people. For people with strong faith, they declare their accountability to God Almighty, Fernandez Mendoza stressed.

## Word from the Center

It’s April, but instead of people’s singing, ‘April Showers’, they seem to be warbling, ‘Ako’y Pobreng Alindahaw’.

And all because its election time in the country.

Incidentally, during elections, in the Visayan language, ‘alindahaw’ can translate into the longing of vote sellers for a shower of cash. Or, outside the electoral fever, into its deeper meaning of a fleeting butterfly.

However, because we are in the midst of election contests, the chthonic meaning of ‘alindahaw’ is more relevant.

For, unfortunately as it sounds, money has always been a major determinant of who wins or loses in the country’s political contests.

What, then, should we do? There is no other recourse, it seems but for the electorate to flex its muscles and make sure that only those qualified for elective positions get their support. And that goes

for all the senatorial, congressional and local government candidates.

Otherwise, as a people, we’d get into the rut that’s been the bane of our society especially since martial law was declared: that of investing monied individuals with sovereign power in public offices even if they don’t fit.

Then, it is us, the great masses of the people who would suffer for it. Not the vote-buyers who enjoying the perks of power would seek first to recover their ‘investments’ before serving the public weal.

That said, fore-warned should be forearmed!

Reject the vote buyers!

Vote for the qualified especially those who seek national transformation.

Let’s all ask for God’s blessings to guide our electoral decisions. Not for ‘alindahaw’..

# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Pro. Nene Pimentel receives and tours his guests of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) who are members of the Catholic (April 19).



Pastor King Flores, Fellow of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance meets with some of the retired officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to discuss issues on law and order in the wake of the upcoming elections in May. (April 26).



Prof. Nene Pimentel, Chairman of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) inducts into office the new officers of the Architecture Advocacy International Foundation (AAIF) Inc. led by Architect Armando "Bone" Alli as the newly elected President, together with Greg Timbol in simple ceremonies at the PILG Conference hall in the University of Makati. (April 27).



Prof. Nene Pimentel signs copies of the book on the Local Government Code which he authored, for Ret. Col. Rey Sandico and Mr. Doming Rocasia (April 29).



Prof. Nene Pimentel meets with Muslim friends who paid him a visit at the PILG center. (L-R) Abdullah Jaujon, Prof. Nene Pimentel, Fiscal Omar Basa, Abdullah Abbubakar (April 30).



Prof. Nene Pimentel Jr., hosted lunch to retired firemen of the Bureau of Fire (April 30). The retirees have sought Pimentel's legal assistance in pursuing their unpaid retirement claims.



# UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI ACTIVITIES



## UMAK CESELE AND CCS JOIN FORCES FOR A MEDICAL MISSION AT THE PINATUBO RESETTLEMENT AREA

By: Dir. Lhiza M. Ferrer

Amidst the verdant backdrop of Mt. Pinatubo, the University of Makati (UMak) Center for Extension Service, Entrepreneurial and Livelihood Education (CESELE) together with the UMak College of Computer Science (CCS) conducted a medical mission – “Medical, Dental, Optical and Summer Operation Tuli” – from April 12 to 13, 2013 for the mixed Aeta community of the Pinatubo Resettlement Area located at Burgos, Baquilan, at the town of Botolan, Zambales province.

Leading the mission were Prof. Lhiza M. Ferrer, CESELE Direc-



tor and her staff, and Engr. Estrella O. Chan, CCS Dean, her College Secretary Dr. Merlyn C. Paulmitan and her enthusiastic faculty. Technical support was provided by a competent medical team headed by husband and wife, Dr.

Josephine O. Campos and Dr. Noel S. Campos, and a pool of hardworking UMak nurses that included Prof. Analie T. Sancho, UMak Design Center for Nation Building Executive Director, Prof. Janice Pola D. Congzon from CCS, and

Profs. Gerwyn C. Pascual, Joy R. Regalario, and Maria Carmela F. Sison from the College of Arts, Sciences and Education – Natural Science Department. They were also joined by members of the Good News Christian Church with their





Pastor Monico Magtanong, and other UMak faculty who volunteered to share their weekend in this philanthropic activity.

This project would not have been possible without the generous support of Hon. Margarita P. Juico of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and the City Government of Makati led by Mayor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay, Jr., the City Administrator, Atty. Eleno M. Mendoza, Jr., Engr. Mario V. Badillo, Head of the Department of Engineering and Public Works, and Engr. Gerardo K. San Gabriel, Head of the General Services Department. CESELE and CCS also thank the top management of University of Makati under the dynamic leadership of President Tomas B. Lopez, Jr. and Ex-

ecutive Vice President Edita I. Chan.

The Mt. Pinatubo mission is actually the fourth in a series of medical missions conducted by CESELE every year since 2010 and the second with indigenous peoples as beneficiary. Last year, CESELE was joined by the UMak Filipino Department with Dr. Loreta E. Catipon at the helm, the League of UMak Volunteers, UMak TV, and the UMak Students' News and Current Affairs, in a medical mission and distribution of bags and school supplies among the Aeta community of Katutubo Village at Barangay Pasbul-Kamias, Porac, Pampanga. The Mt. Porac mission was undertaken in partnership with the PCSO, Municipality of Porac, Philippine Navy,



Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation, Planet Drugstore, and the private doctors of the Municipality of Porac.

In 2011, CESELE (then known as the Extension Service Office) carried out its medical mission ("Operation Tuli") for residents of Guadalupe Viejo, Makati. And in 2010, they conducted their first medical mission (medical, dental, and optical) in their UMak home base among UMak teachers, students and their dependents, and residents of Teachers Compound and Barangay Southside. CESELE is committed to sustaining their medical mission program for indigent communities with the unrelenting support of the City Government of Makati.

