



# Paglaum

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## FEDERALISM: AN ECONOMIC EFFORT



Nene Pimentel discusses the issues on Federalism with law students of San Sebastian Recoletos (August 17).

By Jay Dejaresco

Professor Aquilino Nene Pimentel Jr. emphasized that the move to federalize the country is not simply a political undertaking, as it is also an economic effort.

This was the statement of Pimentel, who has advocated the shift to a federalized form of government in his days in government service.

Pimentel spoke before law students and faculty on the topic "Is Federalism appropriate in the Philippines?" on August 17 at the San Sebastian-Recoletos in Manila.

"By creating eleven federal states and by converting Metro Manila as a federal administrative region, we immediately establish 12 centers of power, finance and development throughout the country," Pimentel explained.

Federalism is meant to accomplish two major things. Pimentel said.

First is to cause the speedy development of the entire country by unleashing the forces of competitiveness among states; and second, dissipate the cause of rebellion in the country, particularly in Mindanao.

The federal proposal will hopefully provide a just and lasting redress of the grievances of the powerless and the neglected sectors of society like the Moro peoples of Mindanao and the Lumads, he said.

By federalizing the Republic, the States will concretely address the needs of their component sectors more readily, he added.

In the case of the Moro peoples, their own federal state would conceivably en-

## NINOY: RIZAL INCARNATE

*[English translation of the extemporaneous Tagalog Remarks of Nene Pimentel at the photo exhibit on Ninoy Aquino of Sonny Camarillo with the assistance of Chris Carreon at the Trinoma, Q.C. August 25, 2013]*

When I reflect on the life and death of Ninoy, I cannot help but think of him as the Rizal of our generation.

As we all know, Rizal did not have to die.

He could have done what our colonial masters then wanted him to do.

He could have kept quiet. But he did not.

He spoke out against the oppression of our people, against the suppression of their rights, against the depression of their dignity as a people.

He wrote what he believed in: freedom for our country, and the dignity of our people.

Who would have guessed

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## Word from the Center

### APORKALYPSE

It is not a typographical error.

The UK daily, The Guardian, invented the word in its August 23 issue (Manila Time).

It was used in reference to the menace posed to agricultural farms in Texas by wild pigs in innumerable hordes.

But the word could very well describe the apparently blatant and now widespread misuse of the pork barrel funds of some of our legislators exemplified by the Napoles progeny of now-you-see-it-now-you-don't-Foundations. Those crepuscular, even chthonic, NGOs

are said to have siphoned off billions of legislative pork barrel funds for the construction of fictitious projects and for the benefit of non-existent marginalized people. And, if at all, the projects are built, the incredible disparity between the gargantuan amounts of the people's money expended therefor, and the puny projects that result therefrom readily stares the eye of the beholder even when twilight begins to cover the rough outlines of mundane creations.

It's a good thing that the President, himself, has come

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## PIMENTEL ON EFFECTIVE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Professor Aquilino Nene Pimentel Jr. Chair of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance emphasized the key elements of good governance to participants of a course on Effective Local Legislation held at the Development Academy of the Philippines last August 28.

Pimentel spoke on the topic "Effective Local legislation in the context of Good Governance"

Pimentel cited the key elements of good governance which are: Transparency, Participation, Predictability and Accountability.

**Transparency** is making information available to the gen-

eral public; and making government rules, regulations and decisions clear, Pimentel explained..

Transparency reduces uncertainty and inhibits corruption, he said.

**Participation** means involvement of citizens in the development process, he explained.

Participation enables beneficiaries and groups affected to make informed choices with respect to their needs, and protect their rights.

It is important that our leaders conduct regular consultations with the people, Pimentel said.

**Predictability** is the existence of legal frameworks that are clear, fair, known in advance as well as uniformly, impartially and effectively enforced, Pimentel explained.

**Accountability**, Pimentel explained, means that "decision-makers at all levels (from government, to private sector, to civil society) must inform and tell the people what they will do, what they have done, and what for?"

The participants in the course familiarized themselves with the principles, basic concepts and characteristics as well as the dynamics of local governance.

## NINYO

From Page 1

that 87 years later and in our lifetime, we would have the privilege of knowing a Jose Rizal incarnate in the person of Ninoy Aquino.

Ninoy like Rizal did not have to die before a hail of bullets.

He could have lived a life of comfort. And freedom in the haven provided him and his family in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

While there, Ninoy contacted me through Doy Laurel, and Tony Cuenco. The message that I received was that he wanted to see me in the US.

That was not an easy request to respond to positively in those times.

There were problems of how I could leave the country without

the permission of the dictator.

In any case, Doy Laurel did the legwork for me and cleared all obstacles to my assignation with Ninoy.

I was able to fly out of Manila and I did meet Ninoy in the house of his sister, Lupita Kashiwahara.

There, Ninoy asked me if I thought he should go home.

I told him that if he went home, he would either be jailed again or he'd be killed. I did not believe, I said, that the dictator would countenance the homecoming of anyone who could be the rallying point of the people's uprising against his government.

In any case, Ninoy came home.

I was in Cagayan de Oro under 'house-arrest', when I heard that Ninoy was shot dead.

What is the lesson that the youth of the land can learn from Ninoy's life and death?

I guess it is the truism that the other side of the coin of right is duty.

Ninoy had the right to enjoy his freedom. But he also saw that he had the duty to help restore the freedom of the people which the dictatorship denied them.

That is what made Ninoy great.

That is why it is important for us to remember that if we want to exercise our rights, we should not forget that we also have responsibilities to discharge at the same time.

If we do that, then the cause for which Ninoy died will live on for the good of the nation.

*Salamat sa inyong lahat.*

## FEDERALISM

From Page 1

able them to run their state government according to their customs and traditions subject to the norms of modern democratic governments, Pimentel said.

Invasive surgery

Pimentel a strong advocate of federalism recalled that when he was senator he prepared Joint Resolution No. 10 containing the framework of a federal Philippine government.

The 63-page resolution seeks to establish a Federal Republic by regrouping the existing local government units.

Joint Resolution No. 10 requires the revision of fifteen of the existing eighteen articles of the Constitution.

He emphasized that under the proposal, there will only be one constitution, one armed forces, one flag, one central bank, one monetary system and one foreign policy.

Joint Resolution No. 10 will create eleven federal states out of the existing local governments.

The resolution will also convert Metro Manila into a Federal Administrative Region that will cover 16 cities, 1 municipality and 1,706 barangays.

## WORD

From Page 1

out condemning the massive abuse to which the so-called PDA funds have been subjected.

For no human explanation seems capable of satisfying the current public outcry against the practice of allocating pork barrel funds for the legislators to use as they wish or to to any other entity or person in government or out of it without full transparency and accountability.

The critics want the PDAF abolished.

All is not lost, however. The law can still take its course. And it should.

Auditors should audit government accounts properly.

Prosecutors should prosecute the guilty.

And judges should convict accordingly.

Equality before the law should be the name of the game.

And speedy administration of justice, its indispensable partner.

Then we will see that the apocalyptic epidemic in the misuse of pork barrel funds will be a thing of the past, yes, even here in these isles of bliss in the Pacific.



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# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Mr. Andrew Browne, China editor of the Wall Street Journal, interviews Prof. Nene Pimentel particularly the triangular China-Philippine-US relationship (August 5).



(Standing L-R) Prof. Tito Bernabe, Dr. Segundo Romero Jr., Arnel Martinez and Jun Aguilar. (Seated L-R) Dr. Grace Jamon, Aileen Lans, Prof Nene Pimentel, Princess Jacel Kiram and Cezar Torrez. (August 5)



Consultation meeting with Prof. Nene Pimentel with the Officers and members of League of Veterinarians (August 7).



Nene Pimentel speaks during a tribute for former South African President Nelson Mandela (August 7).



(L-R) Prof. Nene Pimentel, Mac Muslim of MSU, Dr. Alex Brillantes, Bai Nasreena Sampaco, Bai Rohanisa Sumndad, Mr. Al Santoli. (August 8).



Nene Pimentel meeting with the retired appellate court justices at the Pimentel Center (August 14).



Prof. Nene Pimentel receives a certificate of appreciation as a speaker at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) seminar for the newly elected local officials (August 28).



Nene Pimentel discusses with the law students of Philippine Christian University (PCU) on the salient features of the local government code (August 30).



# UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI ACTIVITIES



## SIGNING OF MOU FOR ADOPT-A-SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM: UMAK-CESELE AND BUCK ESTATE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



For three years, UMak has been providing livelihood education, leadership training, donations and other extension services and programs to its adopted school, Buck Estate National High School in Barangay Buck Estate, Alfonso, Cavite. Through the efforts of the UMak's Center for Extension Service, Entrepreneurial and Livelihood Education (CESELE), the Adopt-A-School and Community Program has been helping communities move towards faster and more productive development.



To legalize the relationship between the two parties, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a one year pilot program was signed last August 8 at Buck Estate National High School by Prof. Lhiza Ferrer, CESELE Director, and Mrs. Verna Hermoso, Buck Estate National High School OIC, in the presence of Dr. Edita Chan, UMak Executive Vice President, and Mr. Ronaldo Liwanag, Buck Estate National High School General Parents-Teachers Association

(GPTA) President: "Through the effort and representation of UMak-CESELE, Buck Estate National High School shall be the beneficiary of the Adopt-A-School and Community Program intended to help and promote the importance of education to the students of Buck Estate National High School, GPTA, Out-of-School Youth, and people of Barangay Buck Estate, Alfonso Cavite, as the adopted school/community." *(Write-up by Dir. Lhiza Ferrer; Photos by CESELE)*

## UMAK CESELE AND CTM BRING TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD TO ADOPTED AETA COMMUNITY

Donations for 'an early bonus of love and care' called



UMak may not be able to bring immediate transformation to the Aeta community in Pasbul-Kamias, Porac, Pampanga but, through the partnership of the College of Technology Management (CTM) and the Center for Extension Service, Entrepreneurial and Livelihood Education (CESELE), they can certainly improve the lives of families, one step at a time, with compassionate and innova-

tive response to their needs. The donation of fabricated tools and bags of Red Lady Papaya seeds with growing medium, seedling trays and organic fertilizer last August 9 to UMak's adopted Aeta community in Porac can provide two years of continuous harvest. CTM and CESELE call for donations of eight hundred pesos per bag of sweet corn seeds for each family to get an early bonus of



love and care to the community. Shown in the photos are CTM Dean Eliseo Co with his faculty and CTM Student Representative Rizam Lacap with CTM Civil Engineering students. Also in the photos are CESELE Director Lhiza Ferrer, Prof. Tyrone Agapito of the Center for Broadcast and Digital Arts, and Barangay Chairman Edwin Abuque with his councilors. *(Write-up by Dean Eliseo Co; Photos by CESELE)*