



# Paglaurum

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



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## LAND RIGHTS TRIBUNAL CONVENED



Asian People's Land Rights Tribunal Panel of Experts pose with the participants of the forum in a display of their resolve to help protect peoples' rights and interests over their lands that have been subject to massive use for development and exploitation. (January 17)

By Clarisse Aquino

An Asian People's Land Rights Tribunal was convened last January 16 and 17 at the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City, to provide a venue for exposing violations of peoples' rights due to poorly regulated and harmful land investments in the region.

The international gathering focused on the theme: "Land Rights are Human Rights".

The Pimentel Center for Local Governance (PCLG) headed by its Chair Prof. Nene Pimentel participated in the initiative as a partner together with other organizations led by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC),

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## Word from the Center

### Good News from Q.C.?

Quezon City is probably the most crime ridden city in the country.

Shooting, kidnapping, car-napping, hold-upping, purse-snatching, murder by riding-in-tandem-motorized bike or solo criminals. You name it. And most likely, it happens every once so often in Q.C.

And worse, the people in general don't seem to mind.

Still, there is a speck of hope that dots the dark clouds of nonchalance among the city residents that seem to hover perpetually over the benighted metropolis.

Recently, for instance, local media reported that a city councilor, Melencio Castelo, filed an ordinance to ban the sale and use of fire crackers in the city.

It may sound like a superficial, peripheral, and ephemeral effort on the part of the councilor to alleviate the plight of his constituents. But if one looks more deeply into the proposal, one would find that compassion and care for his constituents are deeply embedded in it.

For what do the sale and use of firecrackers bring to

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## ISABELA STUDENTS BRIEFED ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

By Jay Dejaresco

Students of the Isabela State University received a briefing on good governance and effective leadership from Prof. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. at the University of Makati last January 22, 2014.

The visiting students were guests of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG).

They interacted with Prof. Pimentel, and got deep insights from his more than forty years of faithful public service where he held many positions of leadership in the government.

The Professor-Emeritus emphasized that leaders need not necessarily be in

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Land Watch Asia Campaign, OXFAM East Asia Grow Campaign, UP Office of the VP for Public Affairs, and UP College of Law.

The activity was highlighted by an international panel of experts from Asian countries like Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, India, Nepal Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The gathering provided a venue for land grab victims in Asia to present and discuss their grievances.

It also aimed to expose accountability of responsible institutions on land grab cases.

Eminent persons from around the region helped to discuss specific violations of peoples' rights in land investment cases.

Appropriate recommendations are expected to be made by the Tribunal to help guide decision-making bodies at different levels in the cases presented to it.

As an unavoidable side-effect, the Tribunal proceedings are also expected to raise public awareness on violations of smallholder rights within land investments taking place in Asian countries.

In recent years it has been observed that private sector investments in agriculture have been increasing in a number of countries in Asia.



**Prof. Nene Pimentel stresses a point to the participants seated behind the panel of experts during the Asian Land Rights Tribunal meet. (January 16)**

This is evidenced by the growth of foreign direct investments in many parts of Asia.

Asian governments have been tagged as partly responsible for this trend by providing policy and fiscal incentives with the view of improving local agriculture economy and reducing poverty.

Unfortunately, the assumption that there is abundant unused land for agricultural development is unfounded.

Increased investments in lands

are putting great pressure on fertile, cultivable lands.

Most of these investments have resulted in the conversion of agriculture, forest and foreshore lands into plantations, tourist parks and industrial centers.

It is in this context that various concerned international groups joined together to convene the Asian People's Rights Tribunal as a venue to discuss and expose serious concerns over land rights in the Asian region.



**Prof. Nene Pimentel, Chairman of the Panel of Experts of the Asian People's Land Rights Tribunal affixes his signature on a sign at the opening ceremony. (January 16)**



# Paglaum



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**ISABELA...** From Page 1

public office. Leaders may be work in NGOs or private enterprises.

In his briefing Pimentel stressed that normally, leaders are seen as people who by custom, tradition or law, exercise power over the lives of the people in their communities or countries or states.

He also shared his personal views on what traits a leader should possess.

Leaders, he said, must have character that includes integrity; competence, and courage.

Moreover, to govern well, leaders need an established set of core values, the Professor emphasized.

“The higher the position you hold as a leader, the more your personhood should center on your core values,” he added.

Pimentel further explained to the students the elements of good governance.

One important element is Participation.

He explained “participation” as referring to the involvement of citizens in the development process.

Beneficiaries and social groups affected by the project need to participate so that the government can make informed choices with respect to their needs. Then, social groups can help protect the people’s rights.



**Prof. Nene Pimentel explains the sharing of the internal revenue allotments for the different local government units as mandated in the local government code. (January 22).**

Pimentel cited some practical examples of good governance, namely: holding of barangay assemblies; publication of monies that they receive and how they spend the funds, and civil society’s participation in bidding projects.

Another element of good governance is “predictability”, Pimentel said.

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

Some practical examples of predictability are well-publicized requirements and procedures in applying for various permits.

Third element of good governance,

he said, is accountability.

Accountability refers to a situation where decision-makers at all levels must account to the public as well as to institutional stakeholders, for what they do and especially on how they spend the people’s money.

An equally important element of good governance is transparency, Pimentel added.

Transparency refers to the availability of information to the general public and clarity about government rules, regulations, and decisions, Pimentel told the students. The rules, regulations and decisions, he said, must be characterized by a degree of permanency. Meaning that they should not be changed at the whim and caprice of the authorities.

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**Councilor Melencio Castelo**

the people especially in a densely populated urban center like Quezon City?

In reply, let us just focus on what the mass media reported about what happened to Quezon City residents on the day after the last Christmas or New Year.

On those holidays, the newspapers, radio and television networks reported that widespread, not isolated, harm, injuries and mayhem have been caused to adults AND chil-

dren in the City by exploding firecrackers. And some homes particularly of the marginalized sectors of the City were set on fire by the obnoxious devices.

Although the mass media seems to have overlooked the special need for peace and quiet of the sick, the elderly, and people with disabilities even on such joyous occasions, it cannot be gainsaid that their individual sufferings were exacerbated by the ear-splitting racket caused by firecrackers.

As for the rest of the residents, especially the poor, they had to put up with the putrefied air brought about by the exploding firecrackers.

Who, then, benefits or derives pleasure from those incendiary devices?

Not the masses of the people, certainly, but primarily, the manufacturers, and

the distributors of firecrackers.

And secondarily, the affluent buyers, and the irresponsible fun-seekers who have money to throw away in the purchase of those increasingly expensive and disastrous virtual bombs.

The proposed Castelo ordinance, therefore, should be supported by his colleagues in the Quezon City Council. And by the people all over the land as a concrete example of what their local Sanggunians can do to help advance the general welfare of their constituents.

In the meantime, congratulations are due to Councilor Melencio Castelo.

*Paglaum* salutes you for your perspicacity and courage to stand up for what is right and good for the people you have sworn to serve.

## Maka Le Wakan ... The Land is Sacred

[Excerpts from the Welcome Remarks of the University of the Philippines President Alfredo E. Pascual at the Opening Day of the Asian People's Land Rights Tribunal Session at the Malcolm Hall, UP, January 16, 2014]



UP President Alfredo E. Pascual

Welcome to the University of the Philippines. ... The UP is honored and privileged to be hosting the first ever tribunal on land rights - a tribunal that will focus attention on the experiences with and violations of small-holder rights brought about by the existing land use policies and poorly regulated land investments in the various countries in the Asian region.

We have with us the distinguished members of the tribunal led by our esteemed former Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, Jr.; Ramon Mag-saysay awardee and Goldman Environmental Prize winner Syeda Rizwana Hasan of Bangladesh; Indonesia Commission on Human Rights Vice Chairman Dianto Bachriadi and Commissioner Sandra Moniaga; Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, and UP's very own Dean Michael Tan of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy and Chancellor Ray Rovillos of UP Baguio.

With their presence, I am confident that that this two-day event will be truly a great learning experience.

But why should we be concerned with land rights and the related human rights of farmers, fisherfolks and indigenous communities in the region? Let me tell you a story.

In Sarawak, Malaysia, a man named Sumen Bin Gasan, a community leader of the Melanau indigenous tribe in Kebuaw Village, is waging a struggle to reclaim the land of his village.

Sumen's tribe has lived in the same

community for over a hundred years. Under *adat* or their native customary laws, the indigenous peoples of Sarawak have customary rights to their land. So clearly there are rules to protect land rights. But despite these rules, it is reported that large palm oil companies have, over time, taken 2,500 hectares of their land. xxx

Does the story of Sumen sound familiar? For many of us, the answer is yes. But many in the international community are not always aware of the struggles faced by indigenous peoples.

Through the actions of advocacy groups such as the Pesticide Action Network Asia, Sumen's story may soon reach a wider audience.

Similar stories are at the heart of this two-day Asian People's Land Rights Tribunal. Some of these stories will be presented to and heard by the tribunal.

These stories will be told by the affected people themselves - the indigenous groups, the small farmers and fisher-folks, and local communities - as well as by the organizations helping them. Theirs are the voices that are lost in the negotiations between governments and corporations over large-scale farmland acquisitions. Theirs are the interests that are set aside in the face of rising food prices, the increasing demand for biofuels, and the desire of countries for rapid economic growth. In many cases in the developing world, too often the lives of the smallholders, as well as the preservation of the environment, fall by the wayside, with tragic and far-reaching results.

It is time for their stories to be heard. Xxx

There is urgency in the task before us today. Regional economic integration in 2015 can be a boon or bane for our respective countries in ASEAN. We must ensure that our economic de-

velopment strategies serve not only to facilitate investment in agriculture and industry but protect the rights to land and the livelihood of the small holder producers as well. We must ensure that the system we put in place will improve rather than marginalize the lives of the poor.

I am confident that through the efforts of the Asian NGO Coalition (ANGOC), the OXFAM through its East Asia GROW Campaign, the Pimentel Center for Local Governance, and the concerned constituent units of the University of the Philippines, we will succeed in this important mission. xxx

I hope that our activity today will start a continuing dialogue on land use and land rights.

As we listen to the case presentations, I ask that we keep in mind the words of Mary Brave Bird, a *Sicangu Lakota* writer and activist who was a member of the American Indian Movement during the 1970s and who participated in many dramatic events, such as the Wounded Knee Incident when she was 20 years old.

She said (and I quote) "*Maka le wakan* - land is sacred. These words are at the core of our being. The land is our mother, the rivers our blood. Take away our land, and we die."

Where land is in question, lives are at stake. On that note, I wish you all a productive and enlightening exchange of ideas.

Thank you and Mabuhay!



(Standing L-R): UP Baguio Chancellor Ray Rovillos, Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, Dr. Sadeka Halim (Bangladesh), UP President Alfredo Pascual, Nene Pimentel, Vice Chair Dianto Bachriadi (Indonesia) and Dean Michael Tan

## Land Rights as Human Rights

Message of UP-VP Prospero de Vera,  
January 16, 2014

In behalf of President Alfredo E. Pascual and the whole academic community, it is my honor to welcome you with a dinner here at the Executive House, the official residence of the president of the University of the Philippines.

Let me start by congratulating all the eminent speakers, case presenters, community leaders, advocates, and of course our partners for a successful first day in the first ever International Land Rights Tribunal.

On a special note, let me make special mention of my boss, mentor and friend (in that order) the Honorable Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. for giving us his time and his wisdom, and chairing the tribunal today.

I have spent 16 years of my professional life now with Senator Pimentel, starting as a consultant in 1998 and for 12 years had the privilege to work with a national leader who in the words of the late Ninoy Aquino would have been the best president this country would ever have.

He continuous in his advocacy for human rights now as a senior statesman, and judging from the energy he has displayed chairing the tribunal today I have no doubt that he will continue to guide us in the years to come.

So "Tatay" as we call him, thank you for all you have done for our country and for your continuing advocacy in behalf of our voiceless and marginalized Filipinos.

In addressing the tribunal this morning, UP President Pascual said that this first ever tribunal on land rights is important because it will focus attention to the experiences and violations of smallholder rights due to existing land use policies and poorly regulated land investments in the various countries in the Asian region.

He emphatically stressed (and I quote) that "It is time for their stories to be heard" because "theirs are the voices that are lost in the negotiations between governments and corporations over large-scale farmland acquisitions. Theirs are the interests that set aside in the face of rising food prices, the increasing demand for biofuels, and the desire of governments for rapid economic growth."

You have done just that the whole day today.

We in the University of the Philippines are serious about our mandate under RA 9500 to provide a unique and distinctive leadership in higher education and development.

Under this mandate is for UP to lead as a public service university by providing various forms of public service, as well as scholarly and technical assistance to the government, the private sector, and civil society while maintaining its standards of excellence.

The tribunal that we organized and attended today is just the start of what we hope will be a continuing partnership for the future.

I now wish everyone a pleasant evening. May you all be refreshed and reinvigorated for the discussions that await you tomorrow. Let tonight be filled with congeniality and solidarity across all the communities and countries represented here tonight as an intimate expression of our collective desire to promote land rights as human rights.

In deep appreciation of your coming, I thank you all, on behalf of the University community!

Mabuhay ang International Land Rights Tribunal!  
Mabuhay Tayong Lahat! Padayon UP!

## THE CHILD IS FATHER TO THE MAN

(Homily delivered by Fr. Dante Venus of the Christ the King Divine Mission at the Thanksgiving Mass on the 50th Birthday of Senator Koko Pimentel, January 20, 2014)



Fr. Dante Venus, SVD

*"Gold and silver I have none, but what I have, I give to you..."*

These words we find in the New Testament book, Acts of the Apostles, 3:10. The time was after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and transformed them from scared followers of Jesus to brave proclaimers of the Gospel of our salvation.

Peter and John, two of the more prominent Apostles, were going to the temple in Jerusalem when a lame beggar asked them for alms. Peter answered, "Gold and silver I have none, but what I have I give to you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise and walk."

And taking the man by the hand, Peter raised him up, and behold the man soon stood on his own and began to walk.

I recall this scene not to say that I have the power to perform miracles, but because of Peter's opening words.

We are gathered here today to celebrate a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving for the grace that Senator Koko Pimentel is receiving even now - the Fiftieth Year of his life.

And since a Fiftieth celebration is usually marked Golden, it would have been fitting if I had some gold, or some version of it to give to our celebrant. But the truth is, I have none - neither gold nor even silver do I have to give. But I have Jesus Christ to share. And I am confident to declare the truth that I am positive we all share: Jesus is more than any earthly gold or precious stone.

This Jesus Christ, dear Senator Pimentel, I share with you. I ask His blessings and guidance for you. I point to Him as the model you are to follow. I urge you to always take His words to heart.

Only yesterday did we commemorate the Sto Nino. I believe it is not by accident that this year your birthday follows the celebration of the Christ Child. This does not happen all the time.

The Feast of the Santo Nino is what in the Catholic Church we call a "moveable feast". Unlike Christmas which is always celebrated on December 25, the Feast of the Santo Nino is on the Third Sunday of January, but the dates differ from year to year. In 2014, your birthday falls on the day right AFTER the Santo Nino feast. Not next year, and not two years from now. But in 2019, by my reckoning, five years from now, when we hope you will reach your 55th year on earth, your birthday will be on the same day as the feast of the Santo Nino: January 20.

What the Gospel would be at that time, we leave till then. But this year, on your Golden Day, the message from the Santo Nino for you, as for us all is: Remain a Child of God. You may be a Senator of the Republic of the Philippines now, you might take other responsibilities later, but whoever you turn out to be, whatever you do, wherever you are, may you never forget that before God you are a child.

Advance in years, yes, be more mature as time progresses, of course, but may you never lose the link with God - He as Father,

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# ARMY BATTLES CORRUPTION

By Clarrise Aquino



Nene Pimentel discusses ways to combat corruption with the officers and men of the Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability of the Philippine Army. Seated at the front middle is MGen Romulo Canbantac and far right, Col. Cesar Mejico. (Photo OESPA-PA, January 29)

In a bid to trash the image of an institution mired in corruption, the Armed Forces has undertaken serious efforts to instill good governance among its ranks.

The Philippine Army has formulated an Integrity Development Action Plan through its own Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability, designed to enforce corruption-free Armed Forces.

Last January 29, 2014, Prof. Nene Pimentel was guest of honor in a symposium of the Philippine Army where he spoke about the ills of corruption in public service.

The Armed Forces has, for years been plagued with incidents and cases of graft and corruption, involving not only the rank and file, but also some top generals.

In his discussion, Prof. Pimentel emphasized that corruption is not limited to stealing money from government.

Corruption takes many other forms, he stressed.

He cited, among others, the following as acts also of corruption: getting commissions from government projects; receiving money from gambling/*jueteng* lords; not respecting human and other peoples' rights; not rendering the ser-

vices demanded by the office.

At the same time, Nene Pimentel also shared his experiences in avoiding corruption, as a long-time government servant.

In order to avoid corruption, Pimentel suggested that government officials and employees make it clear from the very first day in office or even earlier, that they won't tolerate any act of corruption no matter where it comes from: family, relatives or friends who might act as influence peddlers.

He said public officials should not beat around the bush.

"Whenever corruption rears its ugly head, the most effective way to avoid falling into its trap is to immediately say: 'No. I will not do that,'" Pimentel said

"Don't discuss with the serpent as to how you can evade the law. If you get to that point, you have already lost the fight," he added.

Pimentel stressed that before the situation would get more complicated, the official or employee concerned should immediately muster the "political will" and say, 'No, I will not be a party to any corruption.'

Things will be easier if you invoke the Lord's assistance: 'Lord,

please do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from all evil,' Pimentel assured.

Pimentel said that his advice to government officials is – "Say no to corrupt offers right away."

Pimentel said that corruption is bad for the corruptor, the corrupted and society.

Corruption is bad for the corruptor, because he will have no peace of conscience, no peace in life, the Professor said.

Corruption is also bad for the corrupted – the public official or employee because – conscience will bother him or her.

The official or employee who engages in corruption will always suspect that people who know him or her will say bad things about him and his or her family, he said.

"With a free media, the corrupted subjects himself or herself and his or her family to public ridicule," Pimentel added.

What is worse is that corruption will be bad for the community in general, he said.

"Because of corruption, public service is ignored and the community suffers," Pimentel said.

The community is the innocent victim of corruption, he said.

# AFP holds Symposium on Fighting Corruption

By Col. Cesar Mejico

Some 194 officers and men of the AFP attended a symposium on how to combat corruption in the ranks of the armed forces at the Ricarte Hall, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, on January 29.

At 9 a.m., the Opening Ceremony started.

Major General ROMULO CABANTAC Jr., AFP Vice Commander, gave the welcome remarks.

He reminded his audience that:

1. The non-submission of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities Network (SALN) is a criminal liability.
2. The officers concerned should review the SALN of their personnel to ensure the correctness of the data stated therein.
3. The SALN should include conjugal properties. It should therefore bear the signatures of the wife or husband of the AFP personnel concerned.
4. The submission of SALN is a tool of the national government in ensuring transparency.
5. The accomplishment of the lower units will be monitored by Office of the Ethical Standards and Public Accountability (OESPA) Philippine Army (PA) through the submission of their accomplishment reports.
6. He reminded the participants that soldiers should not only be champions in the battlefield but should also focus on the individual integrity and professionalism.

Ms. Karla Eugenie Corpuz, a consultant at the Office of the National Defense, spoke after the Vice Commander.

She talked about the Integrity Development Action Program (IDAP), and discussed in detail:

1. The History of IDAP;
2. The Integrity Development Review;
3. The Philippine Army Corruption Vulnerabilities and Reform Areas, and
4. How the Philippine Army responds to challenges of corruption.

She further said that the Integrity Development Action Program (IDAP) was introduced in the Department of National Defense (DND) in 2005. It is a priority project of the Department of National Defense under the Philippine Defense Program (PDR). And now, it is considered as the Anti-Corruption Framework of the national government.

She also identified the areas of Corruption Vulnerability in the Philippine



(Seated L-R) MGen Romulo Cabantac, Nene Pimentel, and Col. Cesar Mejico with some officers of the Philippine Army assigned to OESPA. (Photo OESPA-PA, January 29)

Army as the following:

1. Procurement through Public Bidding;
2. Procurement of Civilian Personnel, and
3. Utilization of Combat Expense.

Corrupt activities, she said, are facilitated by:

1. Insufficient documentation and deployment policies;
2. Deficient system and procedures especially in the submission of Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Network, and
3. Low human resource initiatives for civilian personnel.

Ms. Corpuz, however, stressed that the Philippine Army is ably combatting corruption in its ranks through the:

1. Approval of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan of the Philippine army;
2. The issuance of three Headquarters Philippine Army (HPA) policies: No To Bribe Policy; No Gift Policy and the Terms and Conditions Of Donations;
3. Adoption of the Policy to Leave the comfort zone; and
4. The crafting of the Citizen's charter that shows the step by step procedures on how the PA offices/units deliver their frontline services to PA personnel.

She suggested that as part of the future plans, Way Ahead, of the AFP, the following should be done:

1. Establish the IDAP as a continuing program of the PA.
2. Empower the Office of the Ethical Standards and Public Accountability (OESPA) as the overall oversight office of the IDAP.
3. Continue review and amend (when necessary) the PA Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

After Ms Corpuz, Lt. Col. Protacio S. Ugaddan, the Exexutive Officer of OESPA, PA gave a brief background of the PA-IDAP.

The implementing plan of PA-IDAP was shown to the participants.

Then, Col. Cesar Mejico, the Deputy, OESPA, PA presented the proposed Philippine Army SALN System (PASS).

The colonel gave as a background to his presentation that the PA has 87,000 officers and men, the highest number among all gov't bureaus.

He told the participants that submission of the SALN is now a requirement of Performance Based Bonus (PBB) that is based on Department of National Defense/Department of the Budget and Mamangement policies.

The Colonel also explained how and when the SALN should be submitted in accordance with recently amended and approved Standard Operating Procedure No. 1 dated 9 January 2014.

The last lecture in the morning session was made by Major Mariglo Ramos, the Chief, System Management and Operation Division of the PA.

The Major explained that the Office of the Army Secretary (OAS) was created in 2010 but was deployed only in July 2013.

The OAS is an automated web-based online archiving. The main objective of OAS is to collect and electronically store scanned SALN documents. The data base server is the Network Enterprise Technology Center (NETC).

He added that: "The data will be received and all copies of SALN are scanned and uploaded into the PDF files.

The SALN documents are thereby stored in the data base server at the NETC.

## THE CHILD ... From Page 5

you as His Child.

Years ago, the poet William Wordsworth wrote :

*My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky;  
So was it when my life began;  
So is it now I am a man  
So be it when I shall I grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The Child is a father of the Man;  
I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.*

From this little poem I learn that what we are as a child, we hope to be when we grow up to be a man, though, of course, some things do change.

The prayer is that as we learn more and different things growing up, find ourselves in various situations, get to know different kinds of people, in the essential things we do not lose the innocence and freshness of childhood, especially in our relationship with God.

In this, the Santo Nino is Himself our model. Jesus whose birthday we commemorate at Christmas, did not remain a baby forever, he grew up. St Luke Says "*Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man. (Luke 2:52).*" So must we all.

The man Jesus would work like any other man, but He kept His relationship with His Father. Teaching all day or healing the sick from morning till night, He would find time to pray, alone in quite – and then resume His work.

The Child of God that we are each meant to remain is not about wearing shorts and continuing to be short in height and light of weight, or on being stunted in a particular intellectual or emotional level. Surely not. We should all grow up, develop, mature. But our being Child of God is never to be forgotten.

This Child that we are is to be the father that we grow up to be, the father of the laws that we make, the father of the relationship that we enter, the father of the families and communities that we create.

This is my message for you today, dear Golden Boy, Senator Koko. Look for the gold of today's celebration not in your pocket or in your bank, not in your hair, not in your teeth, but in your heart.

There the gold of being a Child of God must ever be.

That value assured, may you join the same poet Wordsworth who told us that "The Child is Father of the Man" in exclaiming, "My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky".

But not just the rainbow in the sky, allow me to add, but also the rainbow of people who add color to the gold in your heart. Let gratitude rise, let joy leap up, let love continue to grow and spread, dear Senator Koko, Golden Boy.

## RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Dinner hosted by Prof. Nene Pimentel after the closing ceremony of the Asian People's Land Rights Tribunal Forum. Standing (L-R) Vice Chair Dianto Bacthriadi, UP-VP Popoy de Vera, Mr. Tony Quizon and Fr. Francis Lucas. Seated (L-R) Maricel Tolentino, Bing Pimentel, Nene Pimentel and Holly Jonas. (January 17)



Hugh Nguyen (holding mic) a Fellow of PILG, inspires the university faculty and administration with the topic Transformational Education during the monthly EmPower Lunch of PILG. (January 22)



OCD/NDRRMC Deputy Administrator Romeo Fajardo (3rd from left) gives updates on the situation of the victims of typhoon Yolanda and the measures taken by the government alleviate their plight. (January 30)



(L-R) Hugh Nguyen, Liza Ting, Romeo Fajardo, Nene Pimentel, Rey Sandico, Cesar Mejico (January 30)