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SCIENCE CITY BARANGAY DADS ATTEND SEMINAR



Prof. Nene Pimentel poses with the Barangay Captains of Science City of Muñoz after their graduation rites. (February 22)

By Clarisse Aquino

Thirty five out of thirty seven punong barangays of the Science City of Muñoz, Province of Nueva Ecija participated in the latest Seminar on Good Barangay Governance of the Pimentel Center/Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) at the University of Makati last February 21-22.

The Science City of Muñoz prides itself as the center of technology, resource and development center in the country.

The Science City of Muñoz is the first and only science city in the Philippines and a productive resource city of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Mayor Nestor Alvarez of Science City of Muñoz said the city has metamorphosed into its present stature as a recognized center of excellence in the field of agricultural science and technology

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Word from the Center

The Mystery of Life

The Center shares with our readers a recent news item that appeared in the UK Guardian.

If it were fiction, it could have come from no less than O. Henry, the genius-weaver of surprise endings of masterful short stories.

But it looks like it was factual. Here was how the Associated Press recounted it:

“Holmes County Coroner Dexter Howard calls it a miracle that 78-year-old Walter Williams is alive.

“The coroner was called to Williams’ home in Lexington, a community north of Jackson, where family members believed he had died.

“Howard says Williams had no pulse and was pronounced dead Wednesday (February 26) at 9 p.m.”

But early the next day, when workers at the Porter and Sons Funeral Home were preparing to embalm him, they were all startled when something moved inside the body bag.

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POPE'S EXHORTATION CITED

By Jay Dejaresco

Pope Francis I has just issued his Apostolic Exhortation called *Evangelii Gaudium* or ‘Joy of the Gospel’

Exhortation in the dictionary means a language intended to incite, or encourage.

Evangelii Gaudium is the Pope’s written Exhortation to the Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful on the Proclamation of the

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POPE... From Page 1

Prof. Nene Pimentel stresses a point to the participants at the Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters – Catholic Media Network (PFCB-CMN). (February 28)

Gospel in today's World.

Prof. Nene Pimentel cited the Pope's stress on "the dignity of the human person and the common good."

He reflected on the *Evangeliu Guadium* in his talk with the nation's Catholic Broadcasters during their Bi-Annual gathering in Makati recently.

What hit me most, though, was the papal stress on "the dignity of the human person and the common good".

For these concepts, I submit, are like conjoined twins that in my view, cannot, or, should not be separated.

A community or society that does not uphold the individual's dignity cannot ever speak of the common good.

If you believe in Frank Sinatra's melodious message, human dignity and the common good, are like a horse and carriage. Useless is one without the other.

Hence, it may be worth our while to discuss things that

make media people tick and politicians survive, and in the process, suggest ways of getting the best out of their presence in our society.

I am also mesmerized, Pimentel said, by the Pope's assertion that "human dignity and the common good rank higher than the comfort of those who refuse to renounce their privileges. When these values are threatened, a prophetic voice must be raised." I suppose he meant your collective voices as the Shepherds of the faithful.

In the Pope's view, the Church must "go forth, and reach the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel."

That goal may not be immediately physically doable. But the Pontiff, the practical nerd that he is, might have thought of other means to bring the word of God to the ends of the earth today. Like the media of the masses, and the politics of the nation.

Word... From Page 1

It turned out that the man was alive and - literally kicking!

While apparently miraculous, it was reported that Williams' return to life was not caused by anything that one can directly ascribe to "divine intervention".

Simply put, Williams' new lease on life arose from a heart pacer that restarted after it had malfunctioned for some time immediately before he was pronounced dead.

Williams, it is said, was certainly happy to be on his toes again.

It was much better, others thought, than having him washed, groomed and plied with cosmetics that would only make wake-goers believe that he now looked better in a coffin than on a recuperating bed for the elderly.

In any case, death is said to be an indispensable ingredient of life.

And since he appears to have done the impossible feat of getting to the shores "from whose borne no traveller returns" and coming back to the land of the living, perhaps, Williams should start singing the opening lines of that old Bing Crosby hit, "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life, at last I've found thee!"

And then tell us all about it.



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SCIENCE...

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with the presence of renowned Research and Development Institutions that continue to produce relevant innovations and breakthroughs.

The Science City of Muñoz is home of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), and hosts the central office of the Philippine Carabao Center.

It is also a center in education with the presence of the Central Luzon State University.

The main offices of the Bureau of Post-harvest Research and Extension (BPRE) and the National Freshwater Fishery Technology Center, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR-NFFTC) are also based in Muñoz.

The barangay leaders familiarized themselves with the local government code, particularly in further harnessing the potential of their locality in the field of science and technology development.



Barangay Captains from Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. (February 22)

Under Section 16 of the local government code, the barangays play a vital role in the promotion of science, technology and agriculture in their respective areas.

As a Science City, barangay leaders were encouraged to hear that the local government code adequately provides the legal mechanism for local leaders to harness their capacities in the field of

science and technology and agriculture.

At the same time, emphasized in the two day seminar were the values of ethical leadership and good governance, where the punong barangays were reminded that as elected officials in their respective places, they are primarily servant leaders, whose principal duty is to serve their constituents and promote their welfare.

STATEMENT OF SULTAN ESMAIL KIRAM II, Sultan of Sulu & North Borneo

PRESS STATEMENT

February 21, 2014

The **Sultanate of Sulu & North Borneo** supports the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in its sincere and energetic efforts to pursue peace in Mindanao and Sulu Archipelago.

In fact the pursuit of peace has been the policy of the Sultanate since the arrival of Americans on our shores. Sultan Jamalul Kiram II signed the 1899 **Kiram-Bates Treaty** with the **United States**. Though abrogated in 1904, another peace agreement was signed in 1915 between the Sultan of Sulu and the Governor General in the Philippines which we now call the **Carpenter Agreement**.

Ang sabi ni Dr. Jose Rizal: *Ang di lumingon sa pinang-galingan ay di makakarating sa paroronan*. Para tayo magkaroon ng mapayapa at masaganang kabuhayan sa ating nasyon, tayo ay dapat lumingon at alamin ang ating magiting at makatotohanang kasaysayan.

As Sultan of Sulu, I and my constituents are fully supportive of all peaceful efforts to solve the long-standing conflicts and political problems affecting our region in Sulu Archipelago. The people of Sulu Archipelago are historically called **Bangsa Suluk** and not part of **Bangsa Moro**, a social misnomer used for propaganda and political convenience.

The **Sultanate of Sulu & North Borneo** welcomes all peace agreements as long as it does not affect the sovereign rights and political interests of the Sultanate over North Borneo, now called Sabah.

Our sovereign rights over North Borneo are undeniable and indisputable as vividly enunciated



Sultan Esmail Kiram II (February 21)

by Governor Carpenter in his official letter, dated May 4, 1920, to the Director of Non-Christian Tribes when he stated the following: *IT IS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE BE CLEARLY OF OFFICIAL RECORD THE FACT THAT THE TERMINATION OF THE TEMPORAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SULTANATE OF SULU WITHIN AMERICAN TERRITORY IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE WHOLLY WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR EFFECT AS TO THE TEMPORAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY OF THE SULTANATE BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. ESPECIALLY WITH REFERENCE TO THAT PORTION OF THE ISLAND OF BORNEO WHICH, AS A DEPENDENCY OF THE SULTANATE OF SULU IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE HELD UNDER LEASE BY THE CHARTERED COMPANY WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO COMPANY.*

In 1962 the Ruma Bechara (Royal Council) of the Sultanate of Sulu signed a resolution to transfer the title of sovereignty of the **Sultanate of Sulu** over North Borneo to the **Republic of the Philippines**. This was formally accepted by Vice-President and concurrent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Emmanuel Pelaez and acknowledged by President Diosdado Macapagal.

The transfer document has an important proviso which states: “should the Republic of the Philippines fail to recover North Borneo peacefully ... this document shall become null and void.”

In 1989 the **Ruma Bechara** notified the **Republic of the Philippines** that the transfer document has been declared null and void. The **Sultanate of Sulu** shall thereafter use all means available but will exhaust all peaceful means to recover North Borneo (Sabah).

In pursuit of justice and legal rights, we urge the Philippine government and other morally guided nations to join hands with the Sultanate of Sulu. How can Malaysia, which is the avid facilitator of the peace efforts in Southern Philippines, shamelessly continue to illegally occupy, deport our people, and utilize the rich resources of North Borneo (Sabah), which does not belong to her by historic and sovereign rights whatsoever?

I hope both houses of Congress and the Philippine media will be more critical and judiciously fair in examining the peace efforts of this administration and the political intrigues of other nations.

I also hope that more and more people will be enlightened and see the moral cause of the **Sultanate of Sulu & North Borneo** in its pursuit of peace, justice and integrity.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Visitors from the Kingdom of Bhutan call on Prof. Nene Pimentel. (L-R) Sonam Dorji, Tara Nidhi Chimorya Sharma, Pasang Dorji, Dorji Dhap, and Norbu Dhendup. (February 4)



Visitors from Australia with our PILG Fellows. Seated (L-R): Bruce Smith, Nene Pimentel, wife, Elaine Smith and Bing Pimentel. Standing (L-R) Roy Carandang, King Flores, Hugh Nguyen and their son, Glenn. (February 5)



PILG Fellow Architect Roy Carandang discussing Love Courtship and Marriage during one of the "Empower Lunch" activities at the PILG Seminar hall. (February 12)



Birthday celebration of Nanay Bing with her friends and special guests from Belgium, her daughter's parents-in-law, Eric and Jacqueline Borghijs, standing at their back. (February 19)



Triple birthday celebration. Noreen Marbella, Nanay Bing Pimentel, Winnie Marbella blowing their birthday cake, with Clarisse and Gwen holding it. (February 19)



Sultan Esmail Kiram II receives a certificate of appreciation as one of the speakers of the PILG/PCLG Barangay Seminar. (February 21)



Fr. Francis Lucas, President of Catholics Media Network receives a certificate of appreciation as one of the speakers of the PCLG/PILG barangay Seminar. (February 22)



Prof. Nene Pimentel as guest speaker at the 83rd bi-Annual General Assembly of the Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcaster-Catholic Media Network at the San Carlos Seminary, Guadalupe, Makati City. (February 28)