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NEEDED CHANGES IN LOCAL GOV'T CODE CITED



Prof. Nene Pimentel discusses to the members of the PDP-Laban the important provisions and the proposed amendments of Local Government Code at the Lecture held at Makati Palace Hotel. Listening are Atty. Roy Raagas and UP Vice President Popoy de Vera. (March 13)

By Jay Dejaresco

There are improvements that can be made in the Local Government Code to make it more effective in bringing much needed development in the countryside.

Former Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., one of the principal authors of Republic Act 7160, has cited specific areas in the law that can be amended twenty two years after its enactment.

Pimentel, the principal architect of this important legislation, is steering its passage in both House of Congress at a time when the political powers were heavily centralized in the national government.

He spoke on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino Lakas ng Bayan (PDP Laban), a political organization he founded.

A lecture series was conducted as part of the occasion, in partnership with the

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Word from the Center

B.T. NAT'L HQ INAUGURATED

The Batang Transformers now have their National Headquarters.

It is located in the idyllic Ensign Phillip Pestaño Sanctuary in Antipolo City at the Eastern edge of Metro-Manila barely 50 kilometers away from Manila.

The 16-hectare site is fully planted to trees, has natural creeks, man-made ponds and swimming pools, and the so-called obstacle courses that lovers of nature find irresistible.

Named after Ensign Phillip Pestaño, who offered his young life at 23 in defense of the ideals of public service, the Sanctuary was developed through the dedication

of his father, Pepe, and the devotion of his mother, Evelyn in the last 14 years.

Senator Koko Pimentel, Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-Uzman, and Dr. Macabangkit Ati cut the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the HQ last March 29 in the presence of the Muslim, Lumad and Christian youth participants in the 2nd Batang Transformers Seminar that was held there.

“As their Headquarters, Batang Transformers from all over the land,” Pepe Pestaño informed those who witnessed the inauguration, “will now be welcome to use the facilities of the Sanctuary for their functions.”

LAW NEEDED TO ALLOW SECTORAL REPS

By Clarisse Aquino

Former Senate Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. cited the need to enact a law that would enable various sectors to be represented in the local legislative councils of local governments.

Pimentel made the call when he spoke in the Seminar Workshop for IP Representatives in Municipal Councils last March 3, 2014 at the National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines in Diliman

The seminar was organized by the Philippine Association for Intercultural Development, Inc. (PAFID).

Pimentel said a law is needed that would clearly enable the various sectors mentioned in the local government code to be represented in the legislative bodies of the local governments.

Under the local government code, sectoral representation is en-

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Law... From Page 1

sured in local legislative bodies, particularly in the women, agricultural or industrial workers, the urban poor or indigenous cultural communities or disabled persons.

According to the local government code, the regular members of the sangguniang bayan and the sectoral representatives shall be elected in the manner as may be provided for by law.

On November 26, 1991 the Synchronized Elections Law (R.A. 7166) was enacted into law.

The law directed the Commission on elections to promulgate rules and regulations to effectively provide for the election of sectoral representatives in the implementation of the Local Government Code.

On October 27, 1992, the Comelec issued Resolution No. 2515 and Resolution No. 2517 that laid down the rules and dates for the elections of the city and municipal sectoral representatives for March 26, 1993, and for the provincial sectoral representatives for April 16, 1993.

However, on March 11, 1993, the Comelec issued Resolution No. 2575 that suspended the elections of local sectoral representatives, owing to oppositions that stemmed from budgetary constraints.

On January 17, 1995, the Comelec tried to rectify its failures to call for elections of sectoral representatives by issuing Resolution No. 2753.

This time the election body fixed the rules and regulations governing the elections of sectoral representatives to be synchronized with the national-local elections of May 8, 1995.

The good intentions of the Comelec however, were again frustrated because of the enactment of Republic Act No. 7887, passed on February 20, 1995.

Republic Act No. 7887 states that "the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of law which may hereafter be enacted provid-



Prof. Nene Pimentel with the participants of the seminar-workshop for Indigenous People Representatives held at UP Diliman. (March 3)

ing for the election of sectoral representatives.

It appears therefore that the so-called authority in Republic Act No. 7887 to call for the election of sectoral representatives is subject to future legislation.

What is missing is the enactment of a law that would clearly enable sectors mentioned in the Local Government Code to be representative in the legislative bodies of local governments, Pimentel said.

Needed... From Page 1

Pimentel Center for Local Governance, the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance and the Pambansang Diwang Pilipino Lakas ng Balikatan Foundation Inc.

The Lecture Series called "Empowering Local Government Units Through Fiscal Autonomy" was held last March 13, 2014 at the Makati Palace Hotel. The activity was attended by Mayors, Vice-Mayors, Councillors, and other local government officials like city and municipal assessors, treasurers, and budget officers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

In the lecture series, Pimentel proposed several amendments to the law such as:

1. Increasing the internal revenue share of LGUs from 40% to 50%. He said this increase will translate into several billions more for the coffers of local governments.

2. Including the collections of all government agencies like the Bureau of Customs, the Land Transportation Office, and even gas revenues in the totality of the funds to be divided between the central and local governments on a 50-50 basis. As of now, only BIR collections are included in the funds to be shared by the central government with the local governments.

3. Prohibiting the central government from centralizing directly or indirectly the powers of agencies like Health, Agriculture, and Social Welfare that had already been devolved.

4. Reducing the Internal Revenue shares of certain cities that are awash with money and redirecting the excess funds to municipalities and barangays in clear need of development assistance.

5. Increasing the power and the funds of local governments for education of their constituents and for disaster mitigation and risk man-

agement.

Meanwhile, Pimentel also advised the national administration officials to refrain from tinkering with the internal revenue shares of local governments.

He said that if internal revenues shares of local governments have to be reduced, it should be done in accordance law.

"There is a procedure defined in the Local Government Code to adjust the internal revenue shares," he said.

"Follow the law and avoid complicating the lives of our people in and out of local governments," he added.

Pimentel said that by following the law, the government will also avoid unnecessary lawsuits and antagonizing the officials and the residents especially of the poorer areas of the country.



Dr. Rey Echavez speaks on the topic "Drug as a Menace to Society" during the monthly Empower Lunch Program for the members of the Umak Faculty and Staff held at the PCLG Seminar Hall. (March 20)



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UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI ACTIVITIES



UMAK-CESELE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HSU STUDENTS CONDUCTED A DE-BRIEFING AND FEEDING PROGRAM FOR THIRTY THREE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY TYPHOON YOLANDA AT THE TENT CITY, VILLAMOR AIRBASE, PASAY CITY

By Dir. Lhiza M. Ferrer

On January 20, 2014, CESELE together with HSU-Students, League of UMak-Students and Corps of Sponsors, went to Tent City at Villamor Airbase, Pasay City to support the 33 families from Tacloban and Samar affected by typhoon Yolanda. The group prepared games for the children while, Dir. Ferrer and the members of the Corps of Sponsors were in-charge of cooking spaghetti and other food for the families. The said project is coordinated with DSWD Pasay which gladly welcomed such activities for the victims.

The program would not have been possible without the effort of the HSU students (KII-Section 36) who did their best to have funds by doing a room to room Christ-

mas caroling in the University last December 2013. They went to CESELE office to turn over the money that they raised which amounted to Php2,655.00 pesos. The said amount was used to purchase ingredients for spaghetti, drinks and bread.

After long hours of fun and games with the residents of the Tent City, they were so thankful for the time and programs that the UMak group provided. The delighted students went back to UMak with eagerness to do the same thing for others. The Director of CESELE was so happy with the students who participated and felt inspired to do good deeds to others without receiving anything in return.



UMAK-CESELE AND COLLEGE OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SUPREME STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONDUCT SEMINAR ON LIVELIHOOD, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DONATE A PANGKABUHAYAN PACKAGE FOR ADOPTED AETA COMMUNITY IN THE UPLAND AREAS OF BARANGAY CAMIAS, PORAC PAMPANGA

By Dir. Lhiza M. Ferrer

On January 31, 2014 CESELE, College of Business Administration Faculty-Students and CBA Supreme Student Government conducted Seminars on Livelihood, Entrepreneurship and Marketing Strategies. The CBA-SSG also donated a “Pangkabuhayan Packages: Sari-Sari Store Assorted Goods” while, the students of Hotel and Restaurant Management cooked food for the feeding program. They catered to almost 200 Aeta children while the Office Management students handled different games.

Through the initiative and hardwork of Mr. Deugracia Penol, President of CBA-Supreme Student Government and Prof. Grace Villaruz, CBA-Extension Coordinator,

funds were raised to implement the projects for Community-Based Extension Programs. After the Seminar, the Pangkabuhayan Packages were raffled by CBA Faculty and CBA organizations. Ten Families were announced as winners of Sari-Sari Store Package to start a small scale business and to become entrepreneurs.

Despite long hours of travel over rocky roads going to the upland area of Porac Pampanga, the team reached out to our katutubo brothers and sisters. The UMak faculty and students willingly offered their time, energy and talent for our Adopted Aeta Community. They said that without receiving anything in return, they are ready and willing to serve our countrymen.

