



# Paglaurm

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## PAYATAS NGOs-BARANGAY LINK STRENGTHENED



Prof. Nene Pimentel, Chairman of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (standing) speaks before the participants of the three day Team Building, Leadership Training and Planning Session of Barangay Payatas composed of NGOs, POs and Barangay Council Officials (May 23-25).

By Jay Dejaresco

Non-Government and Peoples' Organizations in Barangay Payatas Quezon City have forged to strengthen linkages with their barangay leadership as in order to provide better opportunities for ordinary barangay residents to improve their economic conditions.

This government-private organization linkage was highlighted during the recently concluded three-day live-in seminar of the Kapamahala Peoples Council held at the Eartheaven Resort in Barangay Silangan, San Mateo Rizal last May 23-25.

For three days, members and leaders of private organizations operating in Payatas, and their baran-

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### Word from the Center

#### Gunshots end life of Payatas woman

A woman without any known enemy was shot dead a week ago in Payatas, Quezon City.

She was walking home with a couple of lady friends when a motorcycle with two men "riding in tandem" approached them.

One of the men called out her name.

She turned her head to respond to the call.

Shots rang out.

She fell. Dead on the pavement. In front of her friends.

And other Payatas residents.

The murderers then simply sped away on their motor bike.

The Center knows no other details about the murder.

What the fearful residents of Payatas shared with the Center is that human life and limb there are worth less than a kilo of beef.

The victim in the incident was a nobody.

Her known 'employment' (if one can call it that) was that she ran the BARANGAY hall of Area A of Payatas with professional skill.

Hardly was there any mass media mention of her dastardly killing.

To the Center, however, her life is priceless. She was, after all, a creature of God.

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### THREE DAY SEMINAR FOR PAYATAS

By Clarisse Aquino

Officers and Members of NGOs in Barangay Payatas participated in a three day team building, leadership training and planning session conducted by the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) at the Eartheaven Resort in Barangay Silangan, San Mateo Rizal.

The three day seminar was designed to

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## Payatas POs-barangay link strengthened

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**Pastor Roy Carandang (center) witnesses the historic "handshake of cooperation" between Barangay Captain Manny Guarin (left) and Kapamahala Presiding Officer Angelito Bañaga (right) (May 25).**

gay leaders immersed themselves in values formation, and leadership skills development and enhanced their knowledge in the workings of government.

The activity was designed to foster better working relations and closer coordination between NGO and private peoples' groups and the barangay government in a mutual effort to combat poverty in Baranagay Payatas.

The barangay is seen as a catalyst in effecting changes in the economic system to enable barangay constituents themselves reap the benefits of their work.

Aside from being the basic government entity tasked to deliver basic public and social services, the barangay serves as a prime mover of economic activities in their areas.

This was emphasized by Lucia Rocha, a resident and leader of barangay Payatas for the past 23 years.

The barangay should also act as a grass roots economic enterprise and help look out for markets of livelihood products produced by barangay constituents, Rocha said.

The barangay livelihood producers cannot directly sell their products to big wholesale buyers. That is why they have to pass through private middlemen, she added.

She lamented that products produced in the barangay are sold at very low prices to middlemen, who are the ones who jack up prices when selling to the big time traders.

This system must be stopped, according to Lucia Rocha, one of the organizers of NGOs and peoples' organizations in Payatas.

She said it is the barangay that must be the go-between of the barangay livelihood producers and the end buyers to do away with middlemen, who are the ones getting rich.

As an example, Lucia explained that a doormat produced by barangay livelihood producers costs between P12 to P15 pesos.

But middle men buy these items and sell it to big traders and mass distributors at prices ranging from P40 to P50 pesos.

Middlemen earn the huge margins or mark-ups, not the barangay producers, Rocha said.

This is the reason why NGOs and peoples' organizations in the barangay level must work hand in hand with the barangay so that the barangay could arrange the transactions between their constituents and the big mass distributors of their products.

## Word from the Center

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**+Vivien Assumption De Castro**

And in a more earthly manner of acknowledging her having once walked on this earth, she was an alumna of a three-day live-in bonding seminar that was organized and conducted by the Center for the Payatas NGOs, just days before she was shot dead.

The seminar was requested by the Payatas NGOs.

Que lastima! How sad.

That she was murdered and the only thing the Center can say or do, for the moment, is to demand that the police authorities do its job pronto.

Identify the culprits. Bring them before the Bar of Justice. And punish them according to law.

The victim, Vivien de Castro, deserves no less.

The people of Payatas too must be reassured that in this increasingly gun-prone society of ours, law and order are still accessible by ordinary folks like them that would make life a little livable even in a garbage dump like Payatas.



# Paglaum



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

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## Three Day Seminar for Payatas

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equip the participants in attaining their objectives of becoming more effective partners with the government to improve the economic conditions of the residents of Barangay Payatas.

Barangay Payatas, one of the biggest barangays in the country with an estimated 200,000 residents, is the residence of many impoverished families in dire need of basic services from the government.

The teambuilding and leadership training seminar began Friday with an Ecumenical Prayer led by **Pastor Nate Yague** of Movement for National Transformation (M4NT).

The session was followed by a video presentation on "Payatas: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" moderated by **Lucy Rocha**, Secretary General of Kapamahala Peoples Council.

After the introduction of the seminar participants, **Chairman Manuel Guarin** of Barangay Payatas delivered his message.

The participants were welcomed by **Prof. Nene Pimentel**,



Prof. Nene Pimentel welcomes the participants of the Team Building, Leadership Training and Planning Session at Eartheaven, San Mateo, Rizal (May 23).

**tel**, Chair of the Pimentel institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG).

The welcome remarks were followed by a definition of the issues as to why the participants were attending the seminar. This was led by **Prof. Nene Pimentel, Andy Rosales, and Dr. Anna Bella Siriban-Manalang**.

The participants were then asked to voice out their concerns and expectations of the activity.

After lunch the participants engaged in "Drawing out the

best from ourselves Sining-bayan concert Workshop" led by singer **Joey Ayala and Pauline Bautista**.

**Andy Rosales** of People's Movement for Democratic Governance (PMDG) later explained to the participants the visions and aims of Kapamahala People's Council.

The discussions then engaged the participants on how to make Payatas Environmentally Friendly, with discussant **Dr. Anna Bella Siriban-Manalang**.

The day was capped with a



Pauline Bautista



Joey Ayala



Andy Rosales



Dr. Anna Bella Siriban-Manalang

fellowship night among the participants and discussants with songs and dances.

On the second day, Saturday May 24, 2014, after brief physical exercises and aerobics, the participants began with a prayer which was followed by a discussion by retired **Archbishop Oscar Cruz** titled “We Are One”.

Following Archbishop Cruz was **Atty. Luigi Gana** who discussed the importance of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, as a means of settling disputes in the barangay, and a discussion of the barangay development council.

**Pastor King Flores** came next with the topic leadership and core values encapsulated in the acronym “SAHIG”.

**Senator Aquilino Koko Pimentel** discussed the virtue of love of country, sharing his experiences of having to sacrifice for the good of our nation and citing his successful senate election protest against fraud and cheating.

**Atty. Elmar Jay Dejaresco** explained the procedure of conducting meetings,



Archbishop Oscar Cruz



Atty. Luigi Gana



Pastor King Flores

focusing on the sessions of the Sangguniang Barangay, which was supplemented by a detailed discussion by **Prof. Nene Pimentel** on preparing the agenda of meetings, taking votes on issues, and ruling participants “in order” or “out of order.”

He then proceeded to discuss the topic on “Leadership: What it is all about”.

On the third day, Sunday May 25, 2014, the day started with an aerobics session and prayer.

Thereafter, **Prof. Nene Pimentel** and **CHED Commissioner Alex Brillantes** led the talk on “NGOs and LGUs: Working Together for Common Good”.

In the afternoon, **Bro. Wyden King** discussed Why

the 24-Hours House of Prayer (24HHP), before the participants began their planning sessions on specific actions to achieve their objectives.

Later in the afternoon, **Prof. Nene Pimentel** summed-up the whole three day sessions, with reflections by the participants facilitated by **Pastor Hugh Nguyen**.

**Prof. Pimentel** then administered the oath of office of the Kapamahala People’s Council, which was followed by a commissioning prayer by **Pastor Roy Carandang**.

Ending the activity was the awarding of certificates and the signing of the commitment scroll by the participants, KPC officers and Payatas barangay officials.



Senator Koko Pimentel



Atty. Jay Dejaresco



Dr. Alex Brillantes



Bro. Wyden King

# PICTURE PICTURE PAG MAY TIME!



Prof. Nene and Flor Leones talk about Payatas problems.



Barangay Chair Manny Guarin welcomes participants.



Pastor Hugh Nguyen talks of the rules of the seminar.



Dr. Norma Camunay moderates a session.



Chairman Manny Guarin poses with Senator Koko Pimentel.



Dr. Beng Manalang receives the Plaque of Gratitude of the PILG from Prof. Nene Pimentel.



Participants of the seminar pose after the morning exercise.



Participants pose with Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Prof. Nene Pimentel.



Facilitator Rima Siriban (standing) with the participants of the Seminar during their workshop session.



Facilitator Hugh Nguyen (standing) with the participants during the break out session.



The participants divided into five groups for the role playing on how to conduct meetings and practice the parliamentary rules and procedures.



Kapamahala Peoples Council Officers take their Oaths of office before Prof. Nene Pimentel.

# Lucia Rañola Rocha: Lifetime of Activism

By Jay Dejaresco

She has been dubbed as an activist par excellence.

That is Lucia Rañola Rocha, now in her mid forties.

Born and raised in Masbate, this Bicolana-speaking lady indeed betrays sparks of activism when you see her.

Passionate about social issues, she is articulate in voicing out the plight of the masses

She started living in Payatas in 1990 when a sister was given “rights” over a piece of land where they could live.

Payatas is the landmark of poverty, pollution, and even crime in the Philippines.

It has a voting population of around 49,000, and an estimated population of about 200,000, larger than those of many a city in the country.

Despite so many handicaps, Lucia is determined to change the face of Payatas from that of extreme marginalization into one of hope, opportunity and progress for its residents.

Lucia is a separated mother of ten who raised them all by herself, after her husband left her.

Her eldest child is now 23 years old and the youngest is eight.

In her student years she became active in political movements, joining the left-leaning League of Filipino Students (LFS).

Her life as an activist exposed her to almost daily protest rallies, calling the attention against government misdeeds.

She got immersed in political activism in 1986 when the late Cory Aquino ran for President against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

She volunteered as a NAMFREL watcher in that Cory versus Marcos presidential electoral contest, and it was during that election that she witnessed first hand how dirty political exercises could be.

She saw for herself how Cory was

winning in the barangay canvassing at Payatas. But when the counting shifted to the city, the Cory votes in Mobo, Masbate were credited to Marcos.

Since then she became active in succeeding political contests, in all levels of electoral exercises - national or local.

Hers has been a lifelong struggle of trying to fight against what is wrong in Philippine politics.

In 2007, she recounted that out of anger and frustration of massive fraud in the elections, she burned election documents which she claimed were products of cheating.

She even over-turned the canvassing tables of the Comelec in Payatas in that election, which caused the Comelec to transfer the canvassing elsewhere.

She had also experienced being in the middle of a gun battle during one of the coup attempts against the Cory administration.

She has sued in court government officials who committed wrong doings while in office.

Lucia has always been in touch with the social issues affecting the poorer sector of our society.

But today, she engages in a different kind of activism.

Instead of fighting government, she has been working to link up non-government organizations with the government particularly in the barangay.

She believes that she can still pursue her advocacies of fighting for the poor, no longer fighting government, but working hand in hand with it.

Ever since she resided in Payatas, she has been involved in non-government and people’s organizations and their activities.



Lucia “Lucy” Rañola Rocha

She found that ordinary citizens can band together and work as a group with government to uplift the lives of barangay residents.

“Before, I had a mindset that everything in government is wrong,” she said.

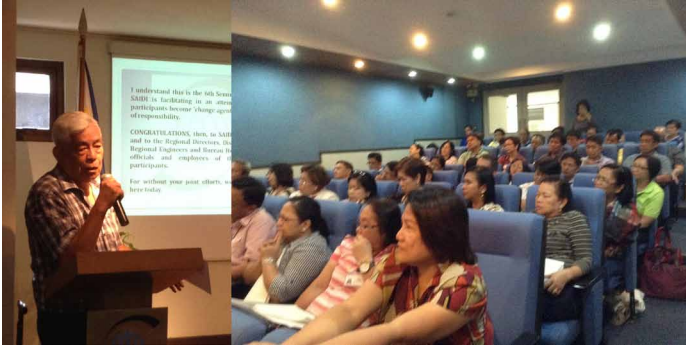
“But I now realize that we are living in a political reality that instead of fighting the system, we can take advantage of the good opportunities in the system that would give the poor a chance at improving their lives,” she added.

Specifically, she pushes for a program of non-government and people’s organizations to strengthen livelihood opportunities among the women in Payatas, like making door-mats, rags, bags, and selling them for additional income for their families.

She said the local government is a vital partner empowering these small private enterprises in the barangay.

She believes this is the key to uplifting the economic conditions of the residents of the barangay.

# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Nene Pimentel as a resource person on the topic "public service" at the SAIDI School of Organization Development Lecture held at Hinulugang Taktak, Antipolo City (May 8).



Nene Pimentel discusses the topic on Decentralization of the Philippines with the participants of Philippines-Japan Local Administration Seminar sponsored by the Local Government Academy (May 15).



Nene Pimentel discusses Good Governance with the participants of the Personnel Officers Association of the Philippines at Hotel Veniz, Baguio City (May 16).



Nene Pimentel, is one of the press freedom awardees at the 32nd Press Freedom Week held at Cagayan de Oro City (May 31).



Participants of the Kapamahala Peoples Council (KPC) Seminar pose with Prof. Nene Pimentel during their graduation rites (May 25).