



# Paglbaum

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



Issue No. 34 • 4 pages

June 2014

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

## CHINA REPRESSION DECRIED



Speakers of the Round Table Discussion on the issue of Falun Dafa, Mr. Michael and Mrs. Bernadette Wolf receive a certificate of appreciation from Prof. Nene Pimentel with the PILG Group. (L-R) Pastor Hugh Nguyen, Pastor Chris Uy, Mrs. Bernadette Wolf, Mr. Michael Wolf, Prof. Nene Pimentel, Pastor King Flores, Dr. Norma Camunay and Prof. Raymond Rosuelo (June 11).

By Jay Dejaresco

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) held a round table discussion featuring the human rights campaign by a group called Falun Dafa last June 11 at the PILG hall at the University of Makati.

Invited in the roundtable discussion were two Philippine-based Falun Dafa practitioners, spouses Michael and Bernadette Wolf.

Falun Dafa is an ancient practice for the mind, body and spirit based on truthfulness, compassion and forbearance.

This practice, also called "Falun Gong" is an advanced practice of self-cultivation which is a way to improve wellness and attain spiritual wisdom.

The practice once gained popularity in China, but since the bloody crackdown by freedom advocates in the Tiananmen Square, thousands of Falun Dafa/Falun Gong prac-

Turn to Page 2

### Word from the Center

Manny Mulawan is a name that won't ring even the largest bell in the minds of most people.

He is a nobody.

But he's important. Not only because he is a Filipino. But, because he is a human being. And, he now appears to be the subject of arbitrary detention by police authorities in Imus, Cavite on what seems to be trumped up charges of rape.

He is a resident of Cagayan de Oro, and is employed with the Cagayan de Oro Water District.

He was picked up by elements of the police from, Gitagum, a municipality some

30 or so kilometers away from Cagayan de Oro.

The arresting team - from reports - did not coordinate with the city police.

And worst of all, the crime was reportedly committed in Cavite on a day when Mulawan was at work in his office at the COWD.

More to the point, Mulawan claims that he had never been to Cavite in his life. And by all indications, he could not afford to fly to Cavite, invite a girl to have a good time with him, and then set her up for rape.

Why, then, is Mulawan in the fix he is complaining

Turn to Page 2

### PILG HEAD SPEAKS AT MINDANAO SUMMIT

By Clarisse Aquino

Prof. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., Chair of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) highlighted the importance of Federalism as key to the economic development of Mindanao.

Pimentel gave his message on the convening of the "MindanoW Empowerment Summit" held at the Grand Meng Seng Hotel in Davao City last June 26, and 27.

The Summit was attended by Mindanao local government officials, representatives of political parties, and party list organizations, church leaders, and non-government organizations and the members of civil society in

Turn to Page 2

## PILG head speaks at Mindanao Summit

From Page 1



**Prof. Nene Pimentel discusses the MindaNOW Empowerment Summit about the proposed Federal System of Government in the Philippines, held in Davao City (June 26).**

the region.

The Summit gathered leaders in Mindanao in an effort to find solutions to the most pressing issues faced by Mindanaonons.

Specifically the objectives of the two-day “MindaNOW Empowerment Summit” were to formulate strategies that will effectively address issues and concerns affecting the people of Mindanao.

The gathering also aimed to unite Mindanaonons for their social, economic and political development, and ensure their equitable representation in the national government by 2016.

The major issues tackled during the summit included energy and food self-sufficiency in the region, reconstruction and

rehabilitation of areas affected by natural and man-made disasters, economic and infrastructure development, maintenance of law and order, and equitable representation in the national government.

There were various presentations of the issues pinpointed for discussion and reactions by participants in the summit during the two day activity.

The summit concluded with the organization of the Mindanao Empowerment Movement (MEMO) which aims to actively participate in the national elections by ensuring more representation from Mindanao in the national government.

The summit was organized by PDP Laban of Mindanao in coordination it the office of Senator Koko Pimentel.

## China Repression Decried

From Page 1

tioners in China have been killed according to the guest Michael Wolf.

Wolf reported that the former head of the Chinese Communist Party Jian Zemin initiated the persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners in 1999 because the group had become popular in China.

He also reported that millions of their fellow Falun Dafa practitioners were thrown into prisons and labor camps in China, and routinely tested for blood and tissue examination to serve as a pool for live organ harvesting.

Michael Wolf and his wife Bernadette have been engaging in an information drive, handing out leaflets, pamphlets, speaking in various fora, seeking to gain awareness of the repression against their members based in China, despite the fact that the Chinese Constitution grants freedom of belief, they said.

They are in the thick of a campaign to stop forced live organ harvesting in China.

They accuse the Chinese Communist Party of embarking on an eradication campaign against Falun Dafa practitioners

in China, targeting them in “organ harvesting”, by removing their functioning body organs for commercial, transplant purposes.

Wolf disclosed that nearly 1.5 million people in over fifty countries have signed the “DAFOH” petition expressing support to the call for an end to this “unprecedented evil” of live organ harvesting.

He also bared that even the European parliament has adopted a resolution against the practice of organ harvesting in China.

He bared Israel has become the first country to disallow health insurance coverage for organ transplants done in China.

Other countries like the United States instituted policies by refusing entrance to visitors involved in “organ trade” business, he said.

These and other measures are part of their campaign to put a stop to this “unspeakable crime”, he said.

## Word from the Center

From Page 1

against?

Nobody knows for certain just why.

But, there are tell-tale signs that some powerful individuals are behind it all.

The police acted swiftly. Far too fast from how they would ordinarily act.

What, then, gives?

It seems that Mulawan’s problems stem from his whistle-blowing inclinations in connection with his work at the COWD.

Some contracts that apparently some COWD officials and/or contractors had entered into are tainted with corruption.

And Mulawan is said to have showed signs that he was critical of those anomalous contracts, and was threatening to expose them.

It’s tough enough to do what’s right in one’s job. It’s even harder if one looks at his or her work as demanding also his or her cleansing of the office of corruption.

The latest the Center has heard was that Mulawan’s volunteer lawyers were getting the Imus Cavite Court to set him free.

But, because justice moves ever so slowly in this country, Mulawan is still behind bars.



# Paglaum



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

Editorial Director **Jay Dejaresco**

Contributing Writers **Alex Brillantes**  
**Nene Pimentel**  
**Ed Tapia**  
**Clarisse Aquino**

Artist/Photographer **reyronda**  
Publisher **Gwen Gana**  
Editorial Consultant **Coylee Gamboa**  
Editorial Staff **Clarisse Aquino**  
**Maelyn Calizo**  
**Carla Caringal**

Pimentel Center for Local Governance  
Pimentel Institute for Leadership & Governance  
4th Floor Administration Building, University of Makati,  
JP Rizal Extension, West Rembo, Makati City  
Telephone No.: 883-1862  
Email: [info@pimentelinstitute.org](mailto:info@pimentelinstitute.org), [rcroffice@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:rcroffice@yahoo.com.ph)  
Website: [www.pimentelinstitute.org](http://www.pimentelinstitute.org)



# No arms, no legs but living a full life...

By Rimalyn Siriban

In 744 hectare land in Philippines, there is a place called Lupang Pangako, (Promised Land) Payatas.

There lived a lady with special ability and unique qualities, her name is Flora Leones.

Flor was born without hands and feet.

I met her in a leadership training facilitated by Pimentel Institute for Local Governance and Kapamahala People's Council in Earth Haven, San Mateo, Rizal.

She had a happy childhood. At age 5, she has been taught by her parents to scrub the floor "bunot", sweep the floor "walis" and water the plant "dilig". She is responsible with the house chores. Her mother exclaims "Mas responsable nga sya sa mga kapatid nya kasi lagi sya naiwan, bata pa sya." At this time also 5-6 years old, she would borrow her brother's pencil and would try to write on a scratch paper. He imitates what his brother is doing and her mother saw that she could hold a pencil. So at age 7, her mother would carry her on her back everyday going to school. At age 9, she danced in a special number in Cultural Center in her mother's People organization - Kabalikatan.

In school, she remembers she was called "pungkol" - a term for "no hands and no feet."

One thing I noticed about her, while she is speaking there is no remorse or negativity in her. "Her eyes are shining, she exudes positive personality and she loves life."

Her father is an electrician and is a very good father. She has been loved by her family and they may not be rich but their house is rich in love.

But her father died when he was 38. Her father was killed by a live wire in Butuan while getting tuba "coconut wine" The live wire use to scare thieves is supposed to be on by 8pm so he taught it wasn't on because it is just 5pm then tragedy happened. At age 13, Flor is fatherless.

During highschool, she has a neighbor that cooks turon at kakanin that she sells in the class. Sometimes, she earns P60 and she gets P20 per variety. When her father died, she became matured. She told herself, my mom will not be here forever so I need to be independent. "Hindi ako nahihya magtin-da. Kung hindi ako magsisikap magkapera, ayaw kong dumepende sa iba kailangan ko magkapera." I am not ashamed to sell. If I will not strive to have money, I don't want to be independent on anyone, I need to have my own money." Flor said.

Did you have a love life? I asked. She smiles. I had suitors and admirers. Sometimes too. I remember I had visitor in the house and my grandfather wasn't home. And I asked him "Why are you here?" My classmate James said "I want to talk." Flor said "You can't go here my grandfather is not here." Classmate James said "I will not speak to your grandfather, I want to speak with you. I just want to visit I am serious about you." Flor said "No. I need to study." James said "We need inspiration." Flor said

"Why are you are you courting me, I don't have hands and feet." James said "I admire you because you are "masipag" at nagnenegosyo ka. You are not noisy o pala-away. Flor said "Alam mo friends lang tayo." James said "May pag-asa pa ba? Magbibilang ako ng taon. Flor said "If you can wait." James said "until when" Flor said "Bahala ka." It's up to you pero ngayon kaibigan lang tayo." James said "ibig sabihin non, basted ako? James asked. Flor nodded.

We laughed, we really had a good laugh.

Were you able to study college?

Gusto ka sana maging secretary. Nuong 21 years old ako, nakatanggap ako ng scholarship sa La Concordia College sa Paco, Manila. Mga Madre ang nagparal sa akin. Pero dahil ang open ay Computer Science ay ginusto ko na rin, pareho din daw yun para marunong ako sa computer.

Pagkatapos mo?

Nag-alaga ako bata. 75 kada linggo ang bayad sa akin dito sa kapit bahay namin sa Payatas. Pero libre ang food.

Tell me about about your son.

Nakilala ko yung dad nya dun. Seminarista sya, missionary stage pa sya nun. Sabi nila kamukha ni Aga. Nagulat din ako bakit nya ako nagustuhan. Nagkaroon kami ng relasyon at nagbunga ang aming pagmamahalan. Tinago ko ang aking pagbubuntis hanggang 5 mos. Nahirapan din tanggapin ng aking mga kapatid nuong una pero ngayon natutuwa ako kasi may kasama na ako sa buhay. Tinutulungan nga ako sa wheelchair.

What do you do now?

Nagvovolunteer ako sa Community Based Rehabilitation For Disabled. Nagtuturo 2 beses isang linggo sa mga 5 yrs old, 6, 7 years old na may kapansanan dito sa Quezon City. Tinuturuan ko sila ng mobilization, socialization, pagsulat. Kasi nahihya pa sila ngayon.

May sahod ka ba?

Oo, 1,000 a month pero may refund naman yung pamasaha ko. Masaya kasi ako sa ginagawa ko.

Paano pa ang ibang kabuhayan mo?

May sari-sari store kami ni mama sa bahay and at loading center of Smart, Globe and Sun. Dati 2,000 pero ngayon 800 araw-araw.

Hindi ka ba napanghinaan kasi wala kang paa at kamay?

Kahit na may kapansanan ako. Kaya ko naman gawin ang ginawa ng normal. Naisip ko hindi habang-buhay buhay ang nanay ko kaya kailangan ko magsikap. Dapat ako magsikap.

Bakit ka masaya?

Naisip ko ito ang design sa akin ni Lord. Bakit ako mahihya.

May purpose si Lord sa buhay mo?

oo. nakita ko rin yun.

May problema ka ba?

Ang gusto ko sana magkaroon ng stable



Flor Leones and son John Francis.

na income. Pero masaya pa rin ako palagi.

Ano ang ipinag-kaiba mo Flor bakit buo ang loob mo?

Dahil sa Panginoon, dahil kung hindi ko kilala ang Panginoon mahina ang kalooban ko.

Ano ang pangarap mo Flor?

Gusto ko maging inspirasyon. Gusto maging inspirasyon. Dun sa may mga kamay at paa at sa mga may kapansanan na rin. Na huwag nilang ikakahiya kung ano man ang kanilang disability. Dahil sa isang may kapansanan ay hindi hadlang sa lipunan. Ako naniniwala ako. May Diyos at mahal Nya ako. Marami pang darating sa buhay ko dahil ang Panginoon marami pang plano sa akin. Kung hindi ako nakikisalamuha, nagvovolunteer sa NGO, nakikipagkaibigan sa mga kapwa ko, hindi ako magkakafriends. Hindi magiging masaya ang buhay. Kaya ang masasabi ko sa kapwa ko may kapansanan, ilabas nila ang kanilang kakayahan at talento at malay mo may makadiskubre sa iyo at maiimprove ang buhay mo. Kaya ang buhay mo noon malungkot man ngayon, masaya na. Kahit na ang akala ng ibang abled body ang mga may kapansanan ay may walang kakayahan, pero ang ibang ibang abled body person hindi nila ginagamit dahil sila ay tamad. Sana ang mga abled body na tamad, magisip na sila na gumawa ng paraan na mamuhay sila na independent, magsikap at magtiyaga sa trabaho at higit sa lahat ang takot sa Panginoon. Dahil ang pagbabago sa tao ay hindi lang sarili natin, kundi sa Panginoon.

Saludo kami sa iyo, Flor.

I am Flora L. Leones, Payatas. I am Filipino. Wholehearted.



# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Prof. Nene Pimentel poses with students of Executive Program of the College of Governance and Public Policy after his lecture on Good Governance (June 7).



Prof. Nene Pimentel with Barangay Officials from Compostela Valley during their visit to the Center (June 7).



Open Forum of the Round Table Discussion on the issue of Falun Dafa. Pastor Cris Uy (holding the mic) gives a reaction to the reported repression by Chinese authorities (June 11).



Wolfgang Drechsler lectures on E-Governance to the faculty and students of University of Makati (June 16).



Prof. Nene Pimentel poses with the group of Mr. Boy Olarte after his consultation meeting regarding property disputes in General Santos City. Also in the meeting is Fr. Noli Alparce (seated: 1st from left in red and black stripe polo shirt) (June 21) and Atty. Gwen Gana (standing: right).



Pastor Hugh Nguyen (holding mic) speaks on the topic "Love of Country" during the monthly EmPower Lunch Program for the members of the Umak faculty and staff held at the PCLG Seminar Hall. (June 25).