



# Paglaum

Issue No. 37

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

The official publication of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

September 2014

## 3<sup>RD</sup> BATANG TRANSFORMERS SET ON OCT. 23-26, 2014

# Batang Transformers

**BUILDING A PEACEFUL NATION  
YOUNG LEADERS CAMP**

ENSIGN PHILLIP'S SANCTUARY, PESTAÑO FARM ROAD, ANTIPOLO CITY



### FORUM ON GOV'T TAXES HELD

By Jay Dejaresco

The Chair of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) keyed the forum on Taxes and Salaries for government employees held at 1:00 p.m. September 18, 2014 at the Court of Appeals auditorium.

The forum on government taxes and salaries was initiated by the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) and the Judiciary Employees Association of the Philippines (JUDEA).

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## Word from the Center

### A blight in September

To the ever optimistic Filipino, September begins the joyful, annual three-month journey into the happiest month of the year, December.

As early as September, Christmas carols begin to creep into the radio-tv airwaves of the country. Their lilting tones that carry the Christian message of love and hope enliven the whole country's environment, and help make people gloss over life's difficulties that they inevitably meet in the first three quarters of the year.

Historically, however, September in 1972 was something else.

For on the 21st day of September, 1972 martial rule was declared. And it turned that month's normally positive joyous meaning into something negatively dreadful which lasted for some 14 horrific years in the lives of our freedom-loving people.

Martial rule, for instance, scrapped the people's fundamental rights and subordinated them to the whims of a dictatorship. And during the long nightmare of its existence until the dictator was ousted in 1986 - people lost their right to speak and move

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By Clarisse Aquino

The third Batang Transformers camp is slated to be held on October 23 to 26 at sprawling Phillip's Sanctuary, Pestaño Farm Road, Antipolo City, Rizal.

This was bared by the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) core group during its planning sessions

The Batang Transformers is a four-day youth leadership program conceptualized and initiated by Prof. Nene Pimentel as part of a continuing advocacy for peace through transformational leadership in the country.

Youth leaders from different religious affiliations, the Muslims, Lumads and Christians will converge in a four-day seminar-workshops aiming to develop a

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## Word from the Center

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around as free citizens, and worse, so many lives were sacrificed on the altar of freedom and democracy.

The recall of the bloody implementation of martial rule is justified by the wise saying: unless we learn from history, we are bound to repeat itself.

Most of the youth of today does not know how the authoritarian government really dealt with our

people in those deadly years.

They do not know that the people were treated like subjects whose only right was to follow what the martial ruler decreed. Or else!

The "or else!" alternative meant incarceration for indefinite periods, or worse, extrajudicial executions - death without due process - as the ruler and his minions pleased.

Democracy abhors such atrocious practices.

Let us make sure they do not

happen again.

And we can begin by denouncing people seeking public office who brazenly justify such practices or who deny their having been done in the country's recent past, along the current lines of the Holocaust deniers of Nazi atrocities that were perpetrated in the '30s up to the '40s in Europe.

Only fools are doomed to repeat their errors. Happily, our people are no fools.

## Forum on gov't taxes held

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The two government workers' organizations are also two of the many co-petitioners associations who have filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking to nullify a Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO 23-2014) issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue that seeks to impose additional taxes and burden on the fringe benefits of government workers.

Prof. Nene Pimentel is the counsel of the petitioners in this petition (G.R. No. 213446), which was filed last August 6, 2014 in the Supreme Court.

According to COURAGE President Ferdinand R. Gaite and JUDEA President Jose Dante Guerrero, the issuance of the BIR RMO No. 23-2014 last June 20, 2104 fired-up government employees, who for the past years have been demanding an increase in salaries.

Gaite and Guerrero said the RMO not only reiterated the taxes that have been burdening government employees, but moreover imposed taxes on otherwise non-taxable benefits.

Government workers have voiced their protest in various forms against the latest order by the BIR, like signature campaigns, wearing of red and black shirts and ribbons on certain work days, hanging of streamers and the conduct of for a to provide a venue for a more detailed discussion and information dissemination of their advocacies, as well as issued that directly affect their daily lives.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Batang Transformers set on Oct. 23-26, 2014

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bond that would eradicate mistaken biases and prejudice between differing cultures and religions.

The PILG has broken social and cultural barriers among young people from different backgrounds in the Batang Transformers Program.

It tells the experience of a young Muslim participant whose family was massacred in his youth.

He had pre-conceived, pre-judged views of people from different religions prior to joining the seminar.

After the seminar, he came to know other peoples' cultures and backgrounds which debunked and changed his biased beliefs in the past.

The seminar also tells the story of a Muslim participant who had views of Christian females as people who behave improperly.

However these beliefs were changed and corrected, when he had the opportunity to work with female participants from other religions in the Batang Transformers seminar.

These are some of the transformations experienced by participants which organizers hope would be shared by them when they return to their respective communities.

These results manifest the attainment of the seminar's objectives which are, among others, to inspire, mobilize and contribute to the youth leaders' becoming change agents in their communities.

The seminar also aims to contribute to the process of character building, patriotism and love of country, through transformational and servant leadership.



The official publication of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

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# Batang Transformer grad pays it forward

By Clarisse Aquino

A product of the Batang Transformer seminar of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) is paying it forward by giving aid to the less fortunate through feeding and tutorial programs to indigenous peoples in Dinapigue, Isabela.

**Remart Dumalo**, participated in the first Batang Transformer seminar, and was a recipient of financial assistance from generous donors to help his own education needs.

After attending the Batang Transformer seminar, Remart Dumalo has been fired up, and has focused his efforts in helping poor communities.

He organized immersion programs to the youth in Isabela, applying the transformational principles he had learned when he attended the Batang Transformers at the Phillip Pestano Sanctuary and Farm in Antipolo.

He also initiated a tree-growing activity to address the environmental concerns in the area, together with other

civic-minded volunteers like Mrs. Mondala (an agta teacher).

Other activities included discussions on simple and proper hygiene, specially in the wake of the spread of deadly diseases like the Ebola virus that has threatened and health and the lives of residents of poor villages and even volunteer health workers in many countries in Africa.

Discussions tackled proper hygiene like learning the proper and basic hand-washing routines which is among the most practical, most effective and cost-efficient ways of preventing the spread of virus.

Discussion also focused on proper waste segregations, education children on the proper waste of disposing their garbage and other waste to help preserve a clean environment in their locality.

Dumalo, a Batang Transformer product, has undertaken efforts in his little ways to spread the principles learned during the Batang Transformer Seminar.



# Batang Transformers Update

## NORTHERN LUZON BATANG TRANSFORMERS IN ACTION

By NORTHERN LUZON BATANG TRANSFORMER -(N.L.B.T.)

### ECHAGUE CHAPTER

The activity was established due to the unending improper way of segregating the garbage of the school. The project was based inside the Isabela State University particularly at GS (graduate school). The project was formed with 3 objectives to achieve: 1) reduce the poor waste management of the college/department. 2) Maintain the cleanliness in the environment. 3) And lastly, after collecting the bottles and segregate it, the organizations sells it and uses the proceeds as an additional income to the fund of the organization.

With the cooperation of the other members, the first project of the N.L.B.T. was done successfully through the participation of the members and with the special participation of the different classroom presidents to require



and monitor their classmates before leaving their classrooms to pick all the plastic bottles in their rooms and put it in the sacks.

Here is some documentation during the conduct of the project.

Here are the outputs of the first project of the N.L.B.T. It was spread on the whole vicinity of the College of Business Accountancy and Public Administration (CBAPA) - extension. The members are given separated schedule in collecting the bottles every afternoon or starting 5 o'clock. Every weekend, it was sold on the junkshop and the proceeds are added to the fund of the organization.

No matter how many members you have, if all of them are lazy the organization itself will not work. Therefore, I am still thankful that other members participated for the completion of the project.

As you can see it was for plastic bottles only, but the title of the project was "Bottle segregation" this is because we expect students to violate this simple rule. Therefore, members of N.L.B.T. was here to guide students the proper way of waste management.

After the completion of the first project, we are now on the next step of the



action plan. The seminar of the members of the organization this upcoming semestral break so that it will not affect their schedules in the school.



### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The appreciation of the members of the assembly meeting was made manifest not only the sensible insights they shared during the discussion of the old members, but also by the incredible bursts of their youthful energies which they un-leased during the workshop on August 8, 2014.



### ILAGAN CITY CHAPTER

Rivena Palogan President (NLBT) discussing the next program/activity which is the feeding program together with the leaders of newly recruited members of (NLBT).

#### INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEENUP

September 27, 2014

On September 27, 2014, the International Coastal Cleanup together with the different organizations of ISU-ILAGAN Campus like the Eco-Tourism, the Batang Transformers and the like was made some actions at Barangay Baculud, City of Ilagan, Isabela.

Mrs. Phoebe Joyce C. Villanueva, the adviser of Eco-Tourism orienting

the participants of the different organizations regarding the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).

