

Paglaum

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BATANG TRANSFORMERS



Building A Peaceful Nation Young Leaders Camp

3rd Batang Transformers camp held

By Clarisse Aquino

The third batch of Batang Transformers held their four-day live-in seminar/workshop at the Batang Transformers national headquarters inside the Phillip Pestaño Farm and Sanctuary in Antipolo, Rizal last October 23-26, 2014.

Fifty four youth leaders from various around the country, representing the Muslims, the Lumads and Christians immersed themselves in efforts to find their commonalities and identify the biases, prejudice that need to be removed, and the cultural barriers to be torn down, in order to attain peace among young Filipinos.

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Batang Transformers: Evolving A Culture of Self-Leadership For Peace

By Pauline S Bautista

The mission of “Tatay” Senator Nene Pimentel and his advocacy partner Pepe Pestaño to create a venue for the interactive experience of peace among Muslim, Christian, Lumad youth leaders is highly significant towards evolving the culture of peace envisioned in our constitution.

Batang Transformers Youth Leaders Peace Camp is a developmentally-appropriate, interactive and nationally-relevant capacity-building experience which provides a neutral and

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Commonality in Community

By Jay Dejaresco

Outspoken retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz emphasized “commonality in community” during the 3rd Batang Transformer Seminar held at the Philip Pestaño Sanctuary and Farm in Antipolo last October 23, 2014.

Archbishop Cruz simplified the concept of commonality before youth leaders attending the four-day camp, who came from different cultural and religious backgrounds.

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3rd Batang Transformers camp held

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The Batang Transformers is conducted by the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance, in cooperation with the Mindanao State University, and the Philippine Society for Public Administration.

Starting on October 23, the participants assembled in the morning at the seminar venue inside the Pestaño Farm, which has been designated as the national headquarters of the Batang Transformers.

After settling in their rooms and doing their prayers and lunch, the youth participants were welcomed at the plenary hall by Prof. Nene Pimentel, chair of PILG.

This was followed by the introduction of youth facilitators who would be guiding the participants throughout the four-day affair, led by lead facilitator **Camp Master George Rupero**.

The first “breakout session” of the seminar followed, led by **Pauline Bautista** where the participants introduced themselves to each other, set their expectations of the seminar, prepared themselves with the overview of showcasing their talents.

Archbishop Cruz followed with a talk on “Commonality” where participants were asked to define what makes them similar with the



Tatay Nene Pimentel welcomes the participants.

youth of different cultures and religion.

Prof. Nene Pimentel followed with his lecture about being a servant leader in the community, emphasizing that the true leader is a servant, not a master of the people he serves.

The participants were also asked to cite their roles as a transformational leaders in nation-building.

Highlight of the day was the cultural night where the participants showcased their talents, depicting their cultures and traditions through songs and dances.

The second day began with a wake up call, daily exercises, interfaith prayer and breakfast.

Pauline Bautista facilitated “Siningbayan--- Art where the canvass is society”. This was followed by a workshop named “Kung Kaya Mo isipin”.

The day also tackled one of the major problems of the youth today, which is the hazards of substance and drug abuse by **Dr. Rey Echavez**.

In the afternoon, the participants were toured around “Philip’s Memorabilia” with the guidance of host **Mr. Pepe Pestaño**, a place were significant items of the late Ensign Philip Pestaño, in whose memory the farm is named and dedicated.

Ensign Philip Pestaño was a navy officer who was killed for his refusal to allow corruption to occur in the institution that he served.

The camp also featured TRUST



Pauline Bautista



Archbishop Oscar Cruz



Dr. Reynaldo Echavez



Pepe Pestaño

activities, designed to build relationships with participants who came from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

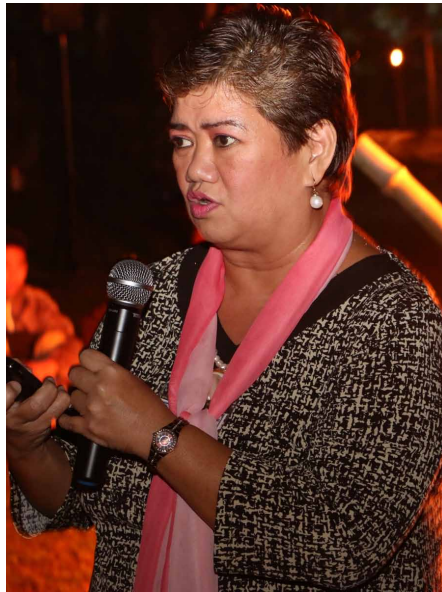
Physical activities were also held in the team challenge course which included activities on the log jam, the learning maze, survivors challenge, toxic waste, and helium loop.

In the evening the participants gathered in a bonfire within the camp where they engaged in story telling focusing on the principles of success, facilitated by **Dr. Norma Camunay**.

Highlights of the third day of the camp were the inputs by **Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-USman** who discussed servant leaders as peace builders. This was followed by



Senator Cynthia Villar



Prof. Norma Camunay

a workshop that focused on the participants role as a peacebuilder.

Senator Cynthia Villar was also guest of the seminar where she discussed livelihood as an expression of love of country.

Villar has undertaken livelihood generation activities in her home city of Las Piñas geared towards providing jobs to constituents.

Also highlighting the day's camp was the talk of **Dr. Macapado Muslim**, President of Mindanao State University, who stressed the role of education as a means of empowerment .

Teambuilding activities were conducted in the afternoon, culminating in a breakout session where participants engaged in an



MSU President Macapado Muslim



Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-USman

exercise where they were made to complete the sentence: " The impact of Batang Transformers on me..."

On the final day, participants joined in an interfaith prayer led by **Pastor Hugh Nguyen**.

Each group of participants made their project presentations, and gave reflections of their experiences in the seminar.

The four-day camp was formally closed by **Prof. Nene Pimentel**, which was followed by distribution of certificates.

The participants dispersed and travelled back to their places of residence where they were to spread what they have learned, to other youths in their areas, performing their role as peacemakers and young transformers.



Pastor Hugh Nguyen

Batang Transformers: Evolving A Culture of Self-Leadership For Peace

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celebratory meeting place for Muslim, Christian and Lumad youth leaders.

Having engaged with the participants of the Batang Transformers Peace Camp at the Cultural Night and the Siningbayan Self Leadership segments through the first three Camps, we have observed that these youth leaders are highly interactive, creatively expressive and deeply contemplative.

They consistently respond to workshop activities with depth of insight and social awareness. Their unique answers have been thought provoking, and their experience-drawn answers to our simple questions have often moved us deeply.

The youth's experience of inclusiveness and cooperation in Batang Transformers' peaceful and harmonious process-flow,



Pauline Bautista discusses the topic Siningbayan, Art where the canvass is society.

and their learning of experience-based wisdom from civic leaders in the fields of culture, spiritual life education, health awareness focusing on drugs, community work, public administration education and local and national governance, are valuable to their formation

as an influential force in evolving a culture of peace as the self-led Filipinos of the next generation.

Bagong Lumad Artists Foundation Inc., founded by Joey Ayala in 1988, wholeheartedly supports Batang Transformers with Siningbayan.

Commonality in Community

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He explained commonality refers to the usual sayings we all encounter like "All for one. One for all", or "United we stand. Divided, we fall" Or "In unity there is strength. In disunity there is debility"

Cruz also stressed the elements of community which begin with the family being the core unit of society.

Community expands in breadth to our respective neighborhoods, to society, and to the entire country.

In his talk, Archbishop Cruz involved the youth participants in a workshop in groups where they were made to answer three



Archbishop Oscar Cruz talks about Commonality.

questions, which are:

"Ano ang ibig sabihin ng batang transformer (What is meant by Batang Transformer)?"

"Ano ang ibig sabihin ng

community (What is meant by community)?"

"Ano ang ibig sabihin ng commonliaty (What is meant by commonality)?"

Batang Transformers

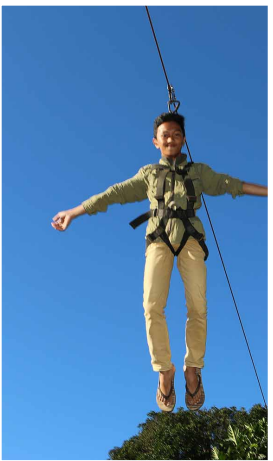
Day 1, October 23, 2014



Day 2, October 24, 2014



Day 3, October 25, 2014



Day 4, October 26, 2014

