# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sound and fury: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 2010 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES</td>
<td>JM Villero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>D2 TAYO! (DEFEND DIGNITY) SA RIGHTS AGENDA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE AGENDA ON GOOD GOVERNANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>AUTOMATED NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>CROSSING BARRIERS</td>
<td>By Dr. Faith Mesa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>ALAMIN ANG INYONG MGA KARAPATAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>PUTTING AN END TO TORTURE</td>
<td>By Ellecer Carlos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>HR DIGEST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>HR TRIVIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>FACTS AND FIGURES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Human Rights Forum is published quarterly by the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights) with office address at 53-B Maliksi St., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City • Telefax: 433-1714 • Tel. No.: 426-4048 • E-mail: philrights@philrights.org • Website: www.philrights.org • ISSN 0117-552-1
MALAPIT NA ang Mayo 10, isang araw sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa kung saan nabubura ang hindikapakapantay-pantay ng mga Pilipino. Sa araw na ito, ang mahirap ay nagiging kapantay ng mayaman; ang mga ordinaryong mamamayan ay nagiging kasing-importante ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno.

Sa araw ng pambansang eleksyon, saang sulok man ng Pilipinas, ang bawat boto – mayaman man o mahirap, bata o matanda, babae o lalaki, may asawa o wala, nakatapos ng kolehiyo o hindi, nasa siyudad o kanayunan, Moro, Katutubo o Kristiyano – ay magkakapareho ang halaga at bilang.

May tig-isang boto tayo at ang bawat isang botong ito, kapag binilang at pinagsama-sama, ay magiging mapagkakarehente na pagpapalago ng mga karapatdapat na kaaprubahan na pinuno ng ating gobyerno.

Ang pag-exercise at pag-angkin ng karapatan gumoto ay hindi lamang responsibilidad ng bawat botante. Ito ay isang mahalagang tungkulin dahil nakasalalay sa ating pagboto at iboboto ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa at ng susunod na henerasyon. Ang isang boto ng bawat Pilipino ay katumbas ng buhay o kamatayan ng ating mga sanggol; karunungan o kamangmangan ng ating mga estudyante; makataong pamumuhay o laganap na kahirapan ng mga magsasaka; maayos na trabaho o paghihikahan ng mga manggagawa; at mayamang kapaligiran o pagkawasak ng ating mga kabundukan at dagat.

Ang boto ng bawat isa sa atin ang pag-asa ng mahigit 94 milyong Pilipino.

Sa Mayo 10, angkinin ang karapatan gumoto para sa mga tunay na maglilingkod sa bayan.

Sa Mayo 10, ipagtanggol ang boto!
TO GAUGE how human rights issues figure in the 2010 elections, PhilRights looked into the platforms and sampled some public appearances of the presidential candidates.1

Campaign Platforms2
Of the eight platforms reviewed, five parties/candidates contained provisions which expressly mentioned human rights: Liberal Party (LP), Nacionalista Party (NP), Bangon Pilipinas, Lakas-Kampi-CMD (Lakas)3 and Sen. Jamby Madrigal (Independent). Of the five, LP’s platform offered the most elaborate discussion on human rights. Three political parties (Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino or PMP, Bagumbayan, and Ang Kapatiran) did not explicitly mention human rights in their platforms.

Provisions for accountability and participation were also looked into. Not surprisingly, the various parties/candidates view accountability from different perspectives: Bangon Pilipinas and Lakas discuss accountability in relation to transparency in government transactions; NP and Madrigal believe that the government should be accountable for human rights violations. LP discusses accountability from the perspective of citizen’s power over State institutions.

Participation is discussed in all but Bagumbayan’s platform. Participation is defined as decentralized and participatory democracy (LP and Madrigal), working with local NGOs and civil society groups (Ang Kapatiran and Madrigal), building capacity of LGUs and increasing local government autonomy (PMP and Lakas), peoples’ participation in the screening of the members of the judiciary (Bangon Pilipinas).

For the most part, the platforms examined reveal that programs related to basic ser-
services were not discussed as rights but as programs.

Survey Results

Ang Kapatiran

Ang Kapatiran expounded on the relationship between integrity and human rights, defining integrity as “the steadfast adherence to a strict ethical or moral code”, and underscoring the principle of respect for life and dignity of the human person.

The party believes that corruption “is the biggest culprit and major cause of the nation’s poverty and hunger. It violates human rights and is a social and moral cancer.” To address this problem, Ang Kapatiran has a six-point program that seeks to address the structures that promote corruption.

The party rejects the Reproductive Health (RH) Bill; is for the dismantling of the “culture of guns” and seeks the prohibition of political dynasties and pork barrel. It also promises to improve delivery of basic services in education, health care and housing.

Bagumbayan

Bagumbayan “assigns the highest priority in upholding the rule of law, uplifting the level of dignity of our people and good governance,” and promises to protect basic human rights to life, liberty and property.

Gordon’s top human rights issues are: a) addressing the huge gap between world standards and local conditions in education and health care; b) solving the war in Mindanao through sustainable development; and c) addressing the numerous cases of extrajudicial killings through better enforcement of the law.

Bagumbayan will ’encourage the creation of a deep pool of knowledge workers by providing scholarships directed towards greater access to vocational training and science/engineering programs.” It also plans to “utilize school systems to improve health outcomes for the youth.” To solve the war in Mindanao, Gordon notes that people turn to violence because of the absence of better opportunities and thus calls for sustainable development. Claiming to be the son of a victim of extrajudicial killing, Gordon emphasizes that there must be swift action against EJKs, and calls for better law enforcement.

Lakas

The party’s human rights platform is based on what it calls a “Centrist Humanist Agenda” which believes that “politics and government should serve the greater good of the greatest number of people in society.” Lakas advocates the principles of a democratic system and believes in people empowerment as the basic requirement in the advancement of democracy.

Its top human rights issues are: a) protection of migrant workers; b) urban poor resettlement; c) solving extrajudicial killings and disappearances and d) the rights of indigenous peoples, including ancestral domain.

Lakas proposes safeguards and support systems that will protect migrant workers at all stages (from recruitment to employment) and will assist in matters of legal issues, repatriation and support. It plans to address housing insecurity of the poor through the use of productive economic projects. It also stresses opposition to all forms of violence. It will work with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of HR violations. It also calls for stronger implementation of the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act (IPRA) to promote the cultural, economic and social welfare of IP communities.

Pangmasa

Pangmasa affirms “the importance of developing the full human potential of a person” to ensure maximum contribution to society. It recognizes the importance of people’s participation in an “authentic participative democracy”, and believes in equal sharing of the fruits of economic activity. It also places importance on gender sensitivity “that respects the unique contributions of men and women”.

Pangmasa’s top three human rights issues are: a) abolishing private armies; b) reopening investigations into extra-judicial killings; and c) releasing detained military men and women who are fighting for rights and reporting abusive plans and actions in all military departments.

Media Forums

In the media forums sampled, the issue of accountability was often discussed. The presidential candidates believed in the need to prosecute erring officials, and the need for transparency in government transactions.

Health issues were also discussed constantly in relation to the RH bill. De los Reyes of Kap-\atiran was against it because of “respect for life,” stressing instead that the health industry should improve on basic health care services. Others propounded on the concept of choice in justifying their position on the bill, such as Villar (NP) and Gordon (Bagumbayan), who stressed that a huge yet educated and skilled population is an asset to the country. Aquino (LP) pushed for responsible parenthood, while Teodoro (Lakas) called for a “moral obligation” of individuals to be responsible for their families.

Of the three media forums sampled, Inquirer’s Presidential Debate touched on more HR issues compared to the other two, even as the questions and answers were not expressly framed as human rights per se.

Lakas standard-bearer Gilbert Teodoro was asked whether he would defend the rights of IPs when mining, logging and other programs threaten their communities. Teodoro said that it is necessary to get the consent of IPs to ensure sustainability of these projects.

Villar (NP), on the issue of impunity, stressed the importance of strengthening the human development index in places where private armies are rampant, through the enhancement of entrepreneurial skills, health and access to education, while also strengthening security through enhancement of the military.

Madrigal (Ind.) sees the need to control advertising of junk food, saying that the emphasis should be on food quality. She said she intends to limit the advertising of several companies and implement stringent measures against companies that “misadvertise,” such as milk companies that advertise powdered milk as breast milk substitute.

Eddie Villanueva underscored the importance of social security for the elderly.

De Los Reyes reiterated his stand against the RH bill, but stressed the importance of maternal health and promoting better access to medical services.

Gordon was asked his opinion regarding proposals to
restore criminal liability to minors. He noted the tendency of some criminals to use minors for their crimes and said that rights must be balanced with responsibilities.

When asked about his opinion on mining investments that will bring improvements to a community but may potentially damage the environment, Perlasm (Ind.) stressed that because IP's regard the environment as a crucial factor for development, all projects must respect their culture, and must see them as part of national development. On a liberalized mining industry, he batted for a new mining law that will respect IP rights. He also advocated for a broader framework that will both address societal needs and the environment.

Villanueva (Bangon Pilipinas) stressed that while women's rights are primordial and basic, this doesn't extend to activities "that violate the morality of a family," such as abortion. He also called for the re-imposition of the death penalty for moneyed criminals.

Aquino stressed the importance of education for employment.

Not quite there yet

The content analysis of the platforms of the presidential candidates reveal that human rights included in the platforms mostly pertain to civil and political rights (i.e., references to the Bill of Rights, EJK, democracy, participation). Most of the platforms have programs on the economy, work, health, education, and housing, among others. These, however, were not expressed as human rights, but were discussed as part of the promised programs. Some which mentioned human rights were not able to expressly link human rights principles into their programs. Aspects of economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights, such as education, health, housing, work, etc., were discussed within the frame of social services and not as basic rights (ex., NP and Pangmasa). Placing these basic rights within the frame of social services naturally will have a major effect on the realization of these rights.

The principle of accountability is discussed in most platforms, except in the case of PMP. Accountability in PMP's platform can be extracted from its political principle, which states that the criminal justice system must prioritize the prosecution of the rich and powerful offenders and criminal syndicates.

The human rights principle of participation is tackled in all nine platforms (except in the case of Bagumbayan), ranging from local government autonomy (Lakas, PMP, Madrigal), participatory democracy and decision-making (LP, Madrigal), monitoring implementation of projects (Lakas, Pangmasa), and supporting non-government organizations and communities (Ang Kapatiran, Lakas, Madrigal, Pangmasa).

Only the platform of independent candidate Madrigal mentioned women's participation. Pangmasa's platform mentioned consumer rights.

ESC issues in the forums sampled were discussed as human rights whenever they were framed in terms of rights of specific sectors: women's rights, consumers' rights, children's rights. Otherwise these issues were placed under the sphere of social services.

Challenging the feeble

It is not enough that a full-blown rights-based approach is lacking and even completely missing from the platforms of the candidates; what is more cause for concern are the candidates' pronouncements that contravene human rights standards. Among these are the plans to re-impose the death penalty (Villanueva) and restore criminal liability to minors (Gordon), as well as the outright rejection of the RH bill (De los Reyes). These are but a few chilling examples that show how feebly informed by human rights principles is the campaign discourse that plays out in the run-up for the 2010 national and local elections.

By experience, the promises of those who are seeking public office are for the most part forgotten after the election season. Civil society organizations should monitor the performance of those who win in the national and local polls and hold them accountable to the programs and directions they promised during the campaign period.

These are the challenges that human rights defenders and the electorate have to respond to, not only during the campaign period, but even more so during the term of office of the next president.

ENDNOTES

1 The materials used for the research were the parties' campaign platforms, a survey questionnaire sent to all presidential candidates, two (2) TV forums and one (1) radio program.

2 Platforms were assessed using the principles of the human rights-based approach (RBA).

3 Lakas-KabaliKat ng Malayang Pilipino-Christian Muslim Democrats

4 The presidential candidates were asked the following:

1. What is your human rights platform?

2. If elected, what are the top three human rights issues you would prioritize?

Only four of the nine presidential candidates sent back their answers: Ang Kapatiran, Pangmasa, Lakas and Bagumbayan.

In response to the survey questions, NP sent back a copy of its platform. This was not included in the results of the survey as the study had a specific section for GPOAs.

5 Three media forums/discussions were looked into: Inquirer's Presidential Debate (held February 9, 2010), DZBB's "Ikwab Na Ba" Series hosted by Mike Enriquez, and the ANC "Harapan" Presidential Forum (which aired on January 29, 2010).

Platforms Reviewed:


Bagumbayan Party. Manifesto for Change.


Jamby Madrigal for President. Reclaim and Regain the Wealth, Sovereignty and Dignity of the Filipino People and Nation: A vision of genuine change for the Filipinos.

Lakas Kampi CMD. The Lakas Kampi CMD Platform: Renewing the Filipino spirit.


Nacionalista Party. In Response to the People’s Concerns.

Partido ng Marangal na Sam-bayan. Platform of the Partido ng Marangal na Sam-bayan.


Note: For the full version of the study, visit the PhilRights website: http://www.philrights.org.

“Elections themselves are human rights events: first, because they give voice to the political will of the people involved; and secondly, because, to be truly free and fair consistent with international standards, they must be conducted in an atmosphere which is respectful of basic human rights.”

HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

HINAHAMON NG mga organisasyong nagtataguyod ng Karapatang Pano ng mga tumatako sa pagkapangulo, gayundin ang lahat ng mga kamuhatid sa eleksiyon sa May 2010, na pakinggan ang sigaw ng mamayan para sa karapatan, kapayapaan at hustisy.

Ang 10-point adyenda sa Karapatang Pano para sa 2010 ng mamayan ay itutulak at babantayan ng Human Rights Community at mga organisasyon ng mamamayan sa buong panahon ng panunungkulan ng sinumang mahahalal sa pamahalaan.

• Agarang pagpirma at pagratipika sa Optional Protocol sa International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

GAWING SALALAYAN AT BALANGKAS ANG KARAPATANG PANTAO SA MGA PANUKALANG BATAS

Put Human Rights in Philippine Laws

• Itigil ang represyon, liigal na pag-aaresto, tortyur, sapilitang pagkawala at extra judicial killings.
• Prayoridad at sapapat na pondo sa mga serbisyo sa mga serbisyo na mahahang ng national budget sa pagbabayad ng utang.
• Karapatan ng mga bata at kabataan laban sa pang-aabuso, diskriminasyon, korapsyon, mga sakuna sa edukasyon.
• Karapatan ng mga manggagawa sa kapatid, disenteng hanap-buhay, at makatanggap ng pagkatapos sa pati ng mga sakuna sa edukasyon.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Human Rights in Development

• Maka-kalikasan, maka-karapatang pano at mga pangkatong pangkampanya.

• Maka-kalikasan, maka-karapatang pano at mga pangkatong pangkampanya.
• Proyeksong may respeto sa karapatan ng mga katutubong Pilipino at mga Moro, lalo na ang kanilang karapatan sa kanilang hukuman ng pagpapasya at karapatan sa lahat ng mga lupa.

• Pamatayang ng mga karapatan sa paggawa, karapatan sa disenteng hanap-buhay.

PARA SA PANIBAGONG PAMUMUNO, ITAGUYOD AT IPAGTANGGOL ANG KARAPATANG PANTAO!

Ang Rights Agenda na ito ay binuo at isinusulong ng mga miyembro ng Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA).

Photos: JM VILLERO
The Filipino nation is in the midst of difficulties and challenges. Poverty, unemployment, hunger, urban blight, environmental destruction, extrajudicial killings, insurgency, and corruption are among the glaring manifestations of human rights violations that persist in the country. These too are the root causes of conflict and violence in Philippine society. Consider the following statistics:

- 26.9% or 4.7 million Filipino families are poor (2006)
- 12.22 million Filipinos are classified as food-poor
- 7% of the total population are not using an improved water source
- 11.6 million Filipinos aged 6-24 years are out of school
- 1 out of 10 Filipinos cannot read and write
- 2.9 million Filipinos are unemployed (using the “new” NSCB definition of unemployment)
- More than 80,000 families were evicted from the railroad tracks from 2005-2006 with only half of them given relocation
- More than 600,000 Filipinos were displaced by internal armed conflict in Mindanao from August-October 2008
- 57 journalists, lawyers and civilians were massacred in Maguindanao on November 23, 2009.

These problems and conditions reflect the weakness, if not failure, on the part of the Philippine government to fulfill its duties and obligations to respect, protect and promote the peoples’ right to life, to be free from hunger, to adequate health, affordable housing, quality education and a healthy environment. These likewise reflect the kind of governance the country’s leaders, both current and past, have practiced.

For the longest time, hu-
Human rights violations have characterized the socio-political landscape of the country. People have been denied essential goods and services that will allow them to live in dignity, grow and develop as productive and healthy individuals, and be active participants in the development process. Instrumental in the perpetuation of this state of affairs is weak and defective governance. Self-agrandizement and power have been the key motivations and driving forces of government officials in the exercise of State functions. Corruption from the lowest to the highest levels of the bureaucracy, abuse of authority and disregard for the rule of law, nepotism and cronyism, mismanagement and misprioritization of government resources, and monopoly of power, have been the tools of State agents in marginalizing the poor and disempowering peoples and communities.

The Philippine government is one of the member states of the United Nations which has consistently declared its commitment to human rights by ratifying virtually all the key human rights instruments. To date, it is a State Party to eight (8) major human rights laws: the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW), and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. However, these commitments have been consistently contradicted in practice by the State with the persistence and escalation of human rights violations, and the perpetuation of a culture of impunity with the failure of the State to prosecute and punish human rights violators, serve justice and provide just compensation, reparation and rehabilitation to all victims.

In the May 2010 national elections, the Filipino people will once again face the duty and challenge of exercising their right of suffrage and choosing the leaders of the nation. As in previous elections, they will encounter candidates projecting themselves as “champions of the
poor”, “defenders of the oppressed”, “hope of the nation,” and “guardians of democracy”.

The candidates will be armed with all sorts of incentives, gimmicks and promises declaring the people’s redemption is imminent and the birth of a great nation is approaching once they get elected into power.

But our people will no longer be fooled by traditional politicians who only have empty promises to offer and a whole term of self-enrichment and deceit in mind. We will demand and expect a substantial and meaningful program of government that is based on human rights principles and a system of governance that is transparent, responsible, based on the rule of law, accountable and participatory.

Thus, we present a Human Rights and Peace Agenda on Good Governance, and we challenge all candidates in the May 2010 elections to integrate these into their program of government and bring them to fruition during their term of office as public servants and leaders of the nation. The human rights community and various people’s organizations will advocate and monitor this Agenda throughout the entire term of those elected in government. The Agenda covers 10 major areas:

1. Ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law through strict implementation of a security policy against the brutal spiral of human rights violations – unlawful arrests, secret detention, enforced disappearances, torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and extrajudicial executions in the name of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism.

Like every country, the Philippines has legitimate security needs. International human rights standards recognize the legitimate needs of states in that field. However in the Philippines, national security concerns have often been invoked as an excuse to justify human rights violations against real or alleged members of left-leaning political groups, using the assumption that such left-leaning groups are fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines—New People’s Army—National Democratic Front or, in some areas in Mindanao, of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Military propaganda accuses leaders of non-governmental organizations and progressive political groups of being allied with “enemy groups” or “enemies of the State”. In an increasing number of cases, the military has also accused leaders and staff of such groups of various criminal acts, including multiple murder.

- Issue an executive order which clearly states the administration’s position to stop the practice of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions in the country. In particular, set up a mechanism that disallows the appointment to senior positions in government and the military of officials who have been involved in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions, including through command responsibility. This should include those who are named as respondents in ongoing criminal cases with element of serious human rights violations, particularly enforced disappearances.
- Introduce effective measures to have a national quick response hotline whereby families of victims of arbitrary or warrantless arrests can access and seek recourse.
- Restore civil society representation and membership in the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC).
- Ensure that the arrest and detention procedures followed by the police and military comply with international human rights laws and standards, by implementing appropriate sanctions for those who fail to follow such human rights-based procedures.
- Order the Armed Forces of the Philippines to stop the practice of arbitrary or secret detention and close any secret detention facilities in operation, including those in military camps and temporary military detachments in the countryside.
- Capacitate the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) of the Philippines to independently monitor in coordination with human rights organizations the human rights of all detainees, including providing CHR personnel unimpeded access to all places of detention and all detainees.
- Ban the techniques, specifically torture and other forms of ill-treatment and enforced disappearance, used by the military and police investigators/operatives during questioning and interrogation, and ensure that appropriate sanctions are in place against those who perpetrate such human rights violations.
- Stop and prohibit incommunicado detention. All detainees should have prompt access to the outside world, including their relatives, lawyers and doctors.
- Ensure that all detainees are able to effectively exercise their right to challenge promptly the lawfulness of their detention before a court, and guarantee that they will be immediately released if their detention is found to be unlawful.
- Commit to transparent, independent, judicial investigations of any credible allegations against anyone suspected of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions, particularly those who are deemed untouchable because of their political or military powers.
- Review the current witness protection program towards its strengthening and with a view of securing convictions against human rights violators through the enrollment into the program of credible witnesses who would otherwise not be motivated to give their testimony.

Legislative Agenda

- Immediately sign the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances as a step towards ratification.
- Certify as urgent the ratification by the Philippine Senate of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- Certify as urgent the passage of a law criminalizing extrajudicial execution.
- Certify as urgent the repeal of BP 880 or the Public Assembly Act.
- Amend Republic Act No. 9372 or the Human Security Act of 2001 to ensure that no person will be unjustly persecuted based on his/her political ideology or belief, provided that such belief or ideology does not translate into political acts that endanger the life and human rights of others.
- Revocate Executive Order 464 or the “Gag Rule”.

2. Reform the security forces and the judiciary.

The Philippine judicial and law enforcement sectors lack the personnel, infrastructure, training and political will to respect, protect and promote human rights. The Department of Justice (DOJ), which serves as one of the government’s lead agencies for the implementation and mainstreaming of human rights, suffers from systemic
corruption and a lack of qualified judges and prosecutors. Judicial personnel remain susceptible to pressure by public office holders and rich and powerful private individuals. Resolution of cases remain slow, with trials often lasting years. Citizens lack confidence in the formal justice institutions and regard them as slow, ineffective and often corrupt. Most Filipinos have difficulty accessing courts and legal assistance; most could not afford court fees or travel costs.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is one of the smallest militaries in the world, particularly in relation to the country’s population. Its use of poorly trained and sometimes undisciplined force multipliers have resulted in abusive practices. In parts of the country where these government-backed paramilitaries are used by local political families and warlords as their private armies, the authority and legitimacy of the central government has been undermined. Current laws and policies, particularly EO 546 which directs the PNP to actively support the AFP in internal security operations for the suppression of insurgency and other serious threats to national security, have been interpreted to allow the use of paramilitary groups in the government’s counterinsurgency operations, with auxiliary groups and civilian volunteer organizations (CVOs) having accountability only to the local chief executive at best.

- Implement a clear and transparent mechanism to prevent the appointment of present and former government and military officials with credible allegations or records of human rights violations to senior levels of government, law enforcement and the judiciary, as well as to provincial, regional and national command posts of the military, including but not limited to those who are named as respondents in on-going court cases related to serious human rights violations.
- Suspend from their post – where they can exert power or influence over victims and witnesses
- Sufficiently capacitate and give mandate to the AFP and PNP human rights offices/desks so they will be able to promptly and credibly conduct detailed and impartial investigations on credible allegations of human rights violations, so that it no longer relies on investigations done by regional commands on the ground on their own personnel. For high profile cases, such investigations should be done alongside the CHR and reputable independent human rights monitors for purposes of transparency and credibility.
- Immediately transmit to the Senate for deliberations the instrument of ratification for the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Legislative Agenda

- Sufficiently capacitate and give mandate to the AFP and PNP human rights offices/desks so they will be able to promptly and credibly conduct detailed and impartial investigations on credible allegations of human rights violations, so that it no longer relies on investigations done by regional commands on the ground on their own personnel. For high profile cases, such investigations should be done alongside the CHR and reputable independent human rights monitors for purposes of transparency and credibility.
- Establish a truth-telling mechanism to document human rights violations experienced as a consequence of the internal armed conflicts in the country, to aid the justice and reconciliation aspects of the peace process. This mechanism should operate alongside, rather than substitute, any judicial proceedings related to the human rights violations in the context of the armed conflict, and be composed not only of government officials, but also people from credible independent bodies. Genuine national reconciliation can only happen if and when authorities take
steps to establish the truth and face up to the crimes of the past, provide justice and reparation for the victims, and end the continuing chain of impunity for armed conflict-related human rights violations.

- Hold accountable government and military officials who have committed human rights violations in the Philippines’ counterinsurgency efforts against the NPA and the MILF. The new administration must commit to a transparent and independent judicial investigation of all credible allegations against government and military officers leading to prosecution of the violations. With the requisite political will and independent oversight, the damage to the rule of law can be repaired, greatly improving the credibility of the new government and creating a positive and enabling environment for the peace process.

- Ensure that AFP officers who have been identified as suspects of serious human rights violations, including through command responsibility, be barred from holding senior government posts until such time that their names have been cleared by a civilian court (if there is a court case), or by the CHR after an independent, transparent and credible investigation (if there is no court case), or any other independent human rights monitors agreed upon by both parties in the peace process.

**Legislative Agenda**

- Certify as urgent the passage of a law on the compensation of all victims of human rights violations particularly during the martial law regime.

- Certify as urgent/priority the enactment of a law that will implement a general amnesty program for members of rebel groups that would also provide immunity from suits arising from their activities while inside the organization.

4. Provide sustainable rehabilitation and resettlement assistance to internally displaced persons in the GRP-MILF armed conflict

More than tens of thousands of Filipinos continue to be internally displaced due to the internal armed conflict particularly in southern Philippines. The situation remains desperate for people displaced in conflict zones, particularly after the onslaught of typhoons, continuing security risks, and their loss of livelihood and other means of sustenance. They face scarce job opportunities and have very limited access to land, housing, water and basic services essential for the realization of human rights.

- Provide sustained assistance to the displaced people, including essential food and potable water, basic shelter, appropriate clothing and heating materials as well as essential medical services and sanitation, in line with the U.N. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

- Ensure free and safe passage of humanitarian assistance to Moro and Lumad communities displaced from their homes due to human-made and natural calamities.

- Ensure that displaced families returning to their homes have their land and property restored and implement effective mechanisms for resolving land disputes.

- Implement resettlement, rehabilitation as well as reparation/indemnification programs/services to all internally displaced persons due to armed conflict.

5. Integrate human rights principles in the Medium Term Development Plan.

Development is a human right to which all peoples and communities are entitled and in which they should have an active and meaningful role. The Philippine government has consistently implemented a development paradigm that has been characterized as export-oriented, foreign debt driven and foreign investments dependent. Such development framework has had serious repercussions on the peoples’ rights and undermined the country’s national patrimony. As the principal duty bearer, it is an obligation on the part of the State to create an enabling environment that will lead to the realization of the peoples’ right to development.

- Set up a human rights office or desk in all line agencies of the government and in all levels of governance as a mechanism to monitor State compliance with its international HR obligations.

- Ensure active and meaningful participation of peoples/comunities in decision and policy-making bodies/structures, especially on matters that affect their lives, through their representation and involvement, specifically in development councils and other development planning structures, in all levels of governance.

- Ensure that all international treaties, bilateral agreements and other forms of international commitments entered into by the President and/or Philippine Senate are based on and consistent with human rights norms, standards and principles.

- Stop all forms of development aggression projects that seriously threaten and/or attack the peoples’ economic, social and cultural rights, deprive people of their means of subsistence, and result in the destruction of the environment, such as conversion of agricultural lands, large-scale mining operations, construction of infrastructure projects like dams, etc.

- Ensure the effective implementation of a comprehensive agrarian reform program that respects and protects the rights of Filipino peasants to life and productive resources.

- Institute measures, mechanisms and procedures that will effectively address graft and corruption in all levels of government and that will ensure transparency and accountability in all transactions, projects, agreements and services entered into by the government at all levels.

**Legislative Agenda**

- Certify as urgent or priority the repeal of Presidential Decree No. 1177 or the Automatic Appropriations Law issued by former Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, which mandates the National Government to automatically appropriate funds for principal and interest payments for public debt service (e.g., Senate Bill No. 1591 or Automatic Debt Appropriations Cancellation Act of 2007 filed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes during the First Regular Session of the 15th Congress).

- Immediately sign the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to facilitate the process of ratification within the new administration’s term.

- Certify as urgent/priority the repeal of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, and the passage of an Alternative Mining Act that is in accordance with human rights norms, standards and obligations, and that respects the rights of indigenous peoples and marginalized communities.

- Hold accountable government and military officials who have committed human rights violations in the Philippines’ counterinsurgency efforts against the NPA and the MILF. The new administration must commit to a transparent and independent judicial investigation of all credible allegations against government and military officers leading to prosecution of the violations. With the requisite political will and independent oversight, the damage to the rule of law can be repaired, greatly improving the credibility of the new government and creating a positive and enabling environment for the peace process.

- Ensure that AFP officers who have been identified as suspects of serious human rights violations, including through command responsibility, be barred from holding senior government posts until such time that their names have been cleared by a civilian court (if there is a court case), or by the CHR after an independent, transparent and credible investigation (if there is no court case), or any other independent human rights monitors agreed upon by both parties in the peace process.

**Legislative Agenda**

- Certify as urgent the passage of a law on the compensation of all victims of human rights violations particularly during the martial law regime.

- Certify as urgent/priority the enactment of a law that will implement a general amnesty program for members of rebel groups that would also provide immunity from suits arising from their activities while inside the organization.

4. Provide sustainable rehabilitation and resettlement assistance to internally displaced persons in the GRP-MILF armed conflict

More than tens of thousands of Filipinos continue to be internally displaced due to the internal armed conflict particularly in southern Philippines. The situation remains desperate for people displaced in conflict zones, particularly after the onslaught of typhoons, continuing security risks, and their loss of livelihood and other means of sustenance. They face scarce job opportunities and have very limited access to land, housing, water and basic services essential for the realization of human rights.

- Provide sustained assistance to the displaced people, including essential food and potable water, basic shelter, appropriate clothing and heating materials as well as essential medical services and sanitation, in line with the U.N. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

- Ensure free and safe passage of humanitarian assistance to Moro and Lumad communities displaced from their homes due to human-made and natural calamities.

- Ensure that displaced families returning to their homes have their land and property restored and implement effective mechanisms for resolving land disputes.

- Implement resettlement, rehabilitation as well as reparation/indemnification programs/services to all internally displaced persons due to armed conflict.

5. Integrate human rights principles in the Medium Term Development Plan.

Development is a human right to which all peoples and communities are entitled and in which they should have an active and meaningful role. The Philippine government has consistently implemented a development paradigm that has been characterized as export-oriented, foreign debt driven and foreign investments dependent. Such development framework has had serious repercussions on the peoples’ rights and undermined the country’s national patrimony. As the principal duty bearer, it is an obligation on the part of the State to create an enabling environment that will lead to the realization of the peoples’ right to development.

- Set up a human rights office or desk in all line agencies of the government and in all levels of governance as a mechanism to monitor State compliance with its international HR obligations.

- Ensure active and meaningful participation of peoples/comunities in decision and policy-making bodies/structures, especially on matters that affect their lives, through their representation and involvement, specifically in development councils and other development planning structures, in all levels of governance.

- Ensure that all international treaties, bilateral agreements and other forms of international commitments entered into by the President and/or Philippine Senate are based on and consistent with human rights norms, standards and principles.

- Stop all forms of development aggression projects that seriously threaten and/or attack the peoples’ economic, social and cultural rights, deprive people of their means of subsistence, and result in the destruction of the environment, such as conversion of agricultural lands, large-scale mining operations, construction of infrastructure projects like dams, etc.

- Ensure the effective implementation of a comprehensive agrarian reform program that respects and protects the rights of Filipino peasants to life and productive resources.

- Institute measures, mechanisms and procedures that will effectively address graft and corruption in all levels of government and that will ensure transparency and accountability in all transactions, projects, agreements and services entered into by the government at all levels.

**Legislative Agenda**

- Certify as urgent or priority the repeal of Presidential Decree No. 1177 or the Automatic Appropriations Law issued by former Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, which mandates the National Government to automatically appropriate funds for principal and interest payments for public debt service (e.g., Senate Bill No. 1591 or Automatic Debt Appropriations Cancellation Act of 2007 filed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes during the First Regular Session of the 15th Congress).

- Immediately sign the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to facilitate the process of ratification within the new administration’s term.

- Certify as urgent/priority the repeal of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, and the passage of an Alternative Mining Act that is in accordance with human rights norms, standards and obligations, and that respects the rights of indigenous peoples and marginalized communities.
6. Advance the social and cultural rights of the people.

Everyone has the right to enjoy the highest standards of health and health care. The state is obliged to ensure that its citizens are adequately nourished and free from hunger. It is likewise the duty of the State to establish a responsive program for social housing and protect the public from unjust evictions from their homes. Everyone has the right to free, accessible, relevant, nationalistic education that is gender and culturally sensitive, responsive to our needs, and advances the culture of human rights.

- Expand programs, facilities, goods and services that contribute to the realization of the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups, specifically the elderly, persons with disabilities and rural poor.

Legislative Agenda

- Certify as urgent the passage of a Comprehensive Public Health Act that will provide the poor and marginalized sectors with adequate health care and access to quality and affordable medical facilities, goods and services, and will protect the rights of patients.
- Certify as urgent the enactment of a Magna Carta for Students Rights and Welfare.
- Certify as urgent the enactment of a law that would include human rights and peace education in all levels of the Philippine educational system.
- Amend existing legislations regarding social housing, demolition and evictions so these are consistent with the respect and protection of the peoples’ right to adequate housing. Enact a law that would criminalize illegal demolitions.

7. Pursue the promotion and protection of children and women’s rights.

All children and youth have the right to special care, education, health and protection against all forms of abuse, discrimination, exploitation, corruption, and inhuman conditions affecting their physical, emotional, intellectual and moral development. The State shall protect and defend both women and men from discrimination, exploitation, trafficking, assault, battery and other forms of abuse and violence, and shall recognize their equal rights as partners in nation building.

Legislative Agenda

- Certify as urgent the passage of a Women’s Reproductive Health Bill that promotes women’s rights, gender equality and non-discrimination.
- Enact laws and institute reforms that would ensure access and equal representation of women in all decision and policy-making bodies of government and other fields of endeavor.
- Certify as urgent the passage of an anti-discrimination law that recognizes the rights of all regardless of sexual orientation including the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders.

8. Respect and protect the rights of indigenous and Moro peoples, particularly their rights to self-determination and ancestral domain.

The State must guarantee the rights of indigenous and Moro peoples by protecting them from all forms of discrimination and displacement, and recognizing, respecting, and protecting their inherent right to their ancestral domain. The State shall also ensure that its development programs do not threaten the survival of the indigenous and Moro peoples, nor destroy their own culture, language, tradition, and belief.

Legislative Agenda

- Introduce amendments to the provisions of the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act (IPRA) that would delegalize and simplify the process of application and certification of ancestral domain/land claims, make it more responsive to the nuances and differences of the culture and traditions of indigenous peoples; and revise the existing guidelines on securing the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) which are in conflict with and violative of the IP right to information, freedom of expression, right to participate in decision-making, and right to self-determination.
- Enact a law that will criminalize all forms of terrorist profiling, discrimination, and prosecution of Moro peoples and practitioners of the Muslim faith.

9. Ensure the promotion of workers’ rights by creating an enabling environment that will respect and protect their rights from all forms of violations and abuses, both by State and non-state entities.

It is the obligation of the State to protect the right of the people to an independent economic policy, free from foreign domination and intrusion, and a self-reliant economy that is against oppressive and unreasonable trade liberalization policies, and subservient debt management strategies that only push the people further into the debt trap.

- Develop and implement a sustainable employment generation program that promotes workers’ rights and is not anchored on a policy of labor liberalization through exportation of human labor.
- Ensure the protection of workers’ rights, primarily addressing issues of labor contractualization/casualization, violations of trade union rights, substandard working conditions, low wages, etc.

Legislative Agenda

- Enact a law that would cancel all trade agreements that only benefit the interests of foreign capital and undermine our own economic growth and development.
- Amend the Labor Code to strengthen the right to strike, and the right to form trade unions.

10. Fulfill the State’s international human rights commitments and obligations.

- Develop and adopt concrete programs, policies and measures leading to the effective realization and implementation of all the Concluding Observations of the various UN treaty-monitoring bodies, namely:

  i. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  ii. Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
  iii. Committee on the Rights of the Child
  iv. Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
  v. Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
  vi. Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination...

Note: This agenda was presented during the Forum on Human Rights and Peace in Good Governance, organized by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) and its Mission Partners in partnership with De La Salle College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) on January 28, 2010.

**Konsepto ng ‘automation’ ng eleksyon**

**Pagka-antala sa implementasyon**

**Proseso at bentahe ng ‘automation’**
**HALALAN 2010: ISANG GABAY**

**BAGO ANG ELEKSYON**


2. Ilista ang mga kandidatong iboboto. Memoryahin ang numero ng grupong party-list na gusto mong iboto.

3. Isang araw bago ang halalan, puntahan ang iyong presinto at titaaking nasa listahan ng registered voters ang iyong pangalan.

**SA ARAW NG ELEKSYON**

MGA MAARING dalhin: valid ID, registration stub, listahan ng mga kandidatong iboboto

PAALALA: panatilihing malinis ang iyong mga kamay.

1. Hanapin ang iyong pangalan at sequence number sa Precinct Computer Voters List (PCVL) na nakapaskil sa labas ng presinto.

2. Pumunta sa Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) at ibigay ang iyong pangalan at tirahan. Makining ng mabuti sa mga panuntunan ibibigay ng BEI tungkol sa tamang pag-fill out ng balota.

**Kahandaan ng COMELEC**


Problemang teknikal

Sa teknikal, wala masyadong problema. Yung sinasabi nila ang COMELEC ay walang kakayanan sa teknikal. Hindi naman sa wala. Meron na siyang IT Department, in the

**Ang automation ay hindi isang solusyon sa dayaan. Ang solusyon sa dayaan ay yung pagbabantay ng mga tao sa eleksyon.**
first place. Pero hindi yun ang importante. Ang pinaka-importante ay yung nakakaalam sa takbo ng makina, yung foreigner, kasi wala naman sa Pilipinas actually na may previous knowledge talaga - kaalaman sa makinang yan - ay direkting magpapatupad sa implementasyon ng automated system. Sila ang may dala dito ng teknolohiya. Magbibigay ng training sa paggamit nyan, kasama ang DOST natin.


OMR na teknolohiya

Yung nagbabasa ng papel, ang tawag diyan ay Optical Media Reader Technology. Ibig sabihin, binabasa yung papel, nandiyan yung balota at nandiyan ang marka ng isang botante at tina-tabulate sa counting.

Yung papel na minamarkahan ng botante, yun na ang balota. Yung OMR technology [ang ipatupad ngayon], kaya lang yung variant na tinatawag na Precint Optical Scan Technology (POCOS), ito yung kaiba sa ginamit halimbawa sa ARMM last year na OM, pero ang variation niya ang tawag doon ay Central Optical Scan. Ito namang POCOS, ang kaibahan, nasa presinto mismo yung makina so hindi mo na kailangan dalhin yung un-counted ballots sa isang sentral na lugar gaya ng munisipyo para doon i-count ng machine. Ang OMR machine, dinala mo na mismo sa presinto. Ang botante mismo ang may magalagay ng kanang boto sa loob ng makina. Walang makakalapit sa kanya except kung hihingi siya ng tulong.

Ang malaking problema

Ang pinakamalaking problema naming nakikita ay mga batikos. Kasi, hindi pa nga man napapatanayan itong mga makina, sangkatutak na ang mga batikos na inaabot at lahat ay nagka-cost ng doubt. Yung iba meron namang pino-propose na ibang sistema, gaya ng so-called open election system. Yung iba talagang paninira lang. At marami dun sa mga batikos ay hindi eksaktong inosente. Kasi, hindi pa nga na maayos yung implementasyon ng mga programa na puwedeng ma-hack, mapasok o mahabang listahan yan. Dapat natin na hindi nakakapag-partido ang mga programa at sa lahat ng sistema na isabotahe yung kanilang bahagi. So, dalawa ang mga kategorya ng pagkampanya ng partido. Mayroon ng kung ang mga programad, yung sakit ng sistema na maiiwasan mo rito para sa maraming mamamayan.

Mga duda sa 'automation'

Sa nabasa ko sa petisyon ng grupo ng Concerned Citizens Movement, ang argument nila dun dalawa: una, legal - na yung kontrata at yung proseso ng bidding ay hindi naaayon sa batas. Pangalawang, yung technical requirement. Yung makina nga daw ay hindi nakakapasa sa error rate na required ng COMELEC at saka tumitigil yung mga programa na puwedeng ma-hack, mapasok o mahabang listahan.

Pero yung intent ng mga nagpetisyon ay inihi ng hinihinga ang implementasyon ng automation ay hindi nagkakatotoo. Actually, hindi lang yun, may iba pang grupo na nag-a-attempt nito o isabotahe yung automation.

Ang malaking problema naming nakikita ay mga batikos. Kasi, hindi pa nga man napapatanayan itong mga makina, sangkatutak na ang mga batikos na inaabot at lahat ay nagka-cost ng doubt. Yung iba meron namang pino-propose na ibang sistema, gaya ng so-called open election system. Yung iba talagang paninira lang. At marami dun sa mga batikos ay hindi eksaktong inosente. Kasi, hindi pa nga na maayos yung implementasyon ng mga programa na puwedeng ma-hack, mapasok o mahabang listahan yan. Dapat natin na hindi nakakapag-partido ang mga programa at sa lahat ng sistema na isabotahe yung kanilang bahagi. So, dalawa ang mga kategorya ng pagkampanya ng partido. Mayroon ng kung ang mga programad, yung sakit ng sistema na maiiwasan mo rito para sa maraming mamamayan.

Mga duda sa 'automation'

Sa nabasa ko sa petisyon ng grupo ng Concerned Citizens Movement, ang argument nila dun dalawa: una, legal - na yung kontrata at yung proseso ng bidding ay hindi naaayon sa batas. Pangalawang, yung technical requirement. Yung makina nga daw ay hindi nakakapasa sa error rate na required ng COMELEC at saka tumitigil yung mga programa na puwedeng ma-hack, mapasok o mahabang listahan.

Pero yung intent ng mga nagpetisyon ay inihi ng hinihinga ang implementasyon ng automation ay hindi nagkakatotoo. Actually, hindi lang yun, may iba pang grupo na nag-a-attempt nito o isabotahe yung automation.

Ang malaking problema

Ang pinakamalaking problema naming nakikita ay mga batikos. Kasi, hindi pa nga man napapatanayan itong mga makina, sangkatutak na ang mga batikos na inaabot at lahat ay nagka-cost ng doubt. Yung iba meron namang pino-propose na ibang sistema, gaya ng so-called open election system. Yung iba talagang paninira lang. At marami dun sa mga batikos ay hindi eksaktong inosente. Kasi, hindi pa nga na maayos yung implementasyon ng mga programa na puwedeng ma-hack, mapasok o mahabang listahan.

Ano ang dapat gawin?

Ang CER kasi miyembro ng Advisory Council. Bahagi na ng rekomendasyon noong una pa lang ay ibukas ang buong proseso sa madla, nang sa ganoon, yung transparency ay masigurado natin at makita nila na maayos yung implementasyon ng sistema. Ginawa nila ito sa bidding. Ang bidding para sa makina ay isa sa pinaka-open, in fact pinaka-open na siguro sa buong kasaysayan ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas, na public bidding. Kaya nga tumagal nang tumagal ang bidding dahil doon. At the end of it, meron talagang lugmitaw na may nakapasa at yun ang napili, consortium ng Smartmatic at Technology Information Management (TIM).

Mga duda sa 'automation'

Sa nabasa ko sa petisyon ng grupo ng Concerned Citizens Movement, ang argument nila dun dalawa: una, legal - na yung kontrata at yung proseso ng bidding ay hindi naaayon sa batas. Pangalawang, yung technical requirement. Yung makina nga daw ay hindi nakakapasa sa error rate na required ng COMELEC at saka tumitigil yung mga programa na puwedeng ma-hack, mapasok o mahabang listahan.

Pero yung intent ng mga nagpetisyon ay inihi ng hinihinga ang implementasyon ng automation ay hindi nagkakatotoo. Actually, hindi lang yun, may iba pang grupo na nag-a-attempt nito o isabotahe yung automation.

Sa tingin ko, inihi muna yung kamiting criticism, kasi nandiyan na, ini-implement na natin. Counter-productive na buong taon yan, hanggang June 30 [2010].

Electoral reform na sinusulong ng CER


Ang priority ang Political Party Reform Bill. Ito ang pagpapalagay sa buong suporta ng reforma sa eleksyon. Ito yung mag-se-set ng rules of the game - ng pagtayo ng partido, at yung behavior ng mga partido. Pagkakataon ng partido, talagang, yung pagkakataon ng partido, halimbawa, yung overspending, transparency sa mga contributor, pag-prohibit ng paglipat-lipat ng partido. Maliban sa rito yung yakakit ng sistema na overspending. Hindi lang overspending at mahigpit na pagbantay sa campaign financing, pero yung mismong prevention ng vote buying, pag-lesen ng personality oriented politics, pagpalakas ng konsepto at sistema ng political party.

amendment sa Absentee Voting Act, paggasa ng local electoral representation. Itong mga batas ay magpapalakip o magpapalapad ng partispasyon ng mga sektor, lalo na ng grassroots sector sa pulitika ng bansa. Kaunang ng Omnibus Election Code, maraming listahan yan ng mga pagbabago, pagtataas ng penalty halimbawa sa election violence – from 6 months to a year gjawing 6 years to 12 years. I-advance ang eleksyon sa ARMN ng 2 linggo, para hindi magamit ang ARMN sa daaay. Amendment sa Omnibus Election Code din. Mga ganung klase ng batas, na sa tingin namin ay napakahalaga para magkaroon din ng patas na playing field at mahayat din natun yung maraming mamamayan na sumama sa eleksyon.

‘Automation’ at karapatan pantao


Direkta partispisyon ng mga tao


HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM | 17

3. Kunin ang balota at special marker na ibibigay ng BEI. Tyakin na malinis at walang sulat o marka ang balota.

4. Pumunta sa voting area at punan ang balota sa pamamagitan ng pag-shade na bilog na tumutugma sa bobotohang kandidato, gamit ang special marker.


6. Bumali sa BEI para sa paglagay ng indelible ink sa iyong daliri (kanang hintuturo) at paglagay ng iyong thumb mark sa listahan ng botante.
EXPERTS SAID the world was due for another pandemic influenza. In contrast to the regular seasonal epidemics caused by minor genetic changes which lead to the emergence of new viral strains every year, pandemic influenza is caused by a major “genetic re-arrangement” by a human and non-human virus in a non-human host. In the case of the 2009 influenza, the new virus was a re-arrangement of four strains, one endemic to humans, one endemic to birds and two endemic to pigs. The lowly swine played host to the re-arrangement and infection was transmitted to humans.

Each year in the United States, seasonal influenza-related illnesses result in an average of 36,000 deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations. In the Philippines, influenza is the 5th leading cause of overall morbidity, affecting 350,000 individuals in 2007.

Vaccination, the best prevention for the seasonal flu, is recommended for people who are high-risk for severe diseases like the elderly, patients with cancer, unstable diabetes or chronic obstructive lung diseases. In the Philippines, vaccination for influenza has been limited to the above cases.

For pandemic influenza to occur, the novel virus has to be pathogenic and virulent to humans. It must likewise be capable of sustained person-to-person transmission for which the population has little or no immunity. The 1918 Spanish flu caused a global mortality of 100 million, while the 1958 pandemic flu which originated from China resulted in one million deaths. The risk of pandemics may be greater today than in the past due to speed of international travel.

The earliest cases of human infection with the novel influenza virus A (H1N1) were detected in April 2009 in San Diego and Imperial County, California and in Guadalupe County, Texas. The virus soon spread rapidly. Within days, hundreds of suspected cases,
IN FEBRUARY 2010, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that while transmission has been declining in many parts of the world, “the A/H1N1 pandemic influenza has not fully passed its peak yet.”

Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO special adviser on pandemic influenza, emphasized that although the A (H1N1) pandemic “appeared not as severe” as originally feared by health officials, “the situation could change” given the highly unpredictable nature of flu viruses. The possibility that the virus could mutate and become more virulent cannot be ruled out by scientists.

Dr. Fukuda stressed the need for countries to be prepared for a second wave of the pandemic. WHO advised governments to “keep their guard against any severe outbreaks and continue their vaccination programs.”

Sources: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2010-02/24/content_9498872.htm
http://balita.ph/2009/12/30/ah1n1-pandemic-not-over-yet-warns-who-chief/
rapidly across the US and Mexico, and then Europe and Australia, they dreaded the confirmation of the first case in the country. As the virus crossed borders, the government established the Philippines Emergency Management Task Force for Influenza A (H1N1) to coordinate all national and local efforts to contain the virus.

In May 2009, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) designated DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III as the “Overall Crisis Manager (De-Facto NDCC Chairman) for 2009 A/H1N1 Flu”.

The DOH issued technical and operational guidelines enforced by national and local government entities among organizations engaged in public health protection and health care provision. Also, directors of DOH Centers for Health Development were mandated to organize the local Disaster Coordinating Councils to respond to the influenza outbreak. Secretary Duque assured the country that measures were in place to detect early cases and contain transmission.

The Hospital Infection Control Committee and Hospital Disaster Preparedness Committee coordinated most of the private and public hospitals’ initial responses to the imminent pandemic. Information on the clinical management of the disease was disseminated among health care providers. Emergency department personnel were educated in handling suspected or confirmed cases.

Despite these measures, my reaction when I received the test result of the first positive case we had at Manila Doctors’ Hospital was disbelief followed by dread. I have experience with emergency preparedness and response, but the tasks that lay ahead seemed formidable.

The DOH focused the initial response to early detection and containment of the virus by contact-tracing and event-based surveillance. All “cases under observation” (patients suspected to have the disease based on exposure and symptoms) were advised admission to a DOH referral hospital and a laboratory confirmatory test.

However, with the rapid spread of the disease globally and within the country, such strategies became less feasible and sustainable. WHO recommended that countries in transition should be prepared to move towards implementing mitigation measures to minimize the impact of the pandemic.6

At the emergency department, we were overwhelmed by the sheer number of consultations for fever, cough and colds. The RTIM was likewise swamped with specimens for confirmatory laboratory testing. Very soon, the number of affected individuals increased every day. Returning overseas Filipino workers were a particular problem. I treated one who was supposed to go back to his hometown on vacation. At this time, we could not accommodate him for admission because of lack of rooms. While the DOH recommended home quarantine, he worried about his family. He said there was not enough space in their home for him to be properly isolated.

Access to Health Care: The Challenge of a (H1N1)

The severity of a pandemic may vary from country to country and among different locations within the country. Main determinants of severity include 1) the pandemic virus and its virological characteristics, 2) vulnerability of population, 3) the capacity for response.5

The current strain of influenza A (H1N1) causes self-limiting infections in a majority of infected individuals. Initial advisories issued by the DOH for preventing the spread of infection included strict hand washing, practicing proper cough etiquette and social distancing or limiting contacts –– advice that had always been emphasized by health care practitioners even before the pandemic.

Unfortunately, in a third world country such as the Philippines, poverty makes the population highly vulnerable to infectious diseases. In fact, data from the National Statistics Office in 2009 still lists infectious diseases like pneumonia, diarrhea, bronchitis, tuberculosis and influenza among the top ten leading causes of morbidity. Overcrowding in urban poor communities, lack of knowledge on proper health practices, and lack of water facilities are just some of the basic health concerns that put the majority of Filipinos at risk for influenza A (H1N1).

The DOH has also initially identified 5 DOH-retained government hospitals as primary referral and admitting centers. Three of these were in Metro Manila, one in the Visayas and one in Mindanao. But as the number of cases increased, the lack of adequate health facilities, limited number of health care workers and slow delivery of services in government hospitals became more pronounced and perceptible to patients. Selected private hospitals were allowed to admit patients in their facilities and manage the cases according to the guidelines issued by the health department.

A calamity fund of 93.5M was requested by the DOH to cover for the preparedness plan for the pandemic influenza. This included purchases for stockpiling of anti-viral medications, personnel protective equipment and other logistics/supplies. When community level transmission was apparent, local government units also had to allot funds to take care of the health needs of their constituents. This underscored the fact that the country has been spending very little on health care as reported by the NSO. For example, in 2007, health only constituted 3% of our gross national product.

The use of antiviral drugs should be part of a comprehensive approach consistent with the overall pandemic preparedness plan, the use of which should be in accordance with DOH guidelines. A tablet of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) costs P160. For a full course of treatment, one has to spend P1600 on this medicine alone. This certainly places a strain on the resources of Juan de la Cruz who may even learn less than the minimum wage.

During the avian flu scare, calls were already raised by public health practitioners and human rights groups about making drugs of public health importance exempt from patent laws, to make the drugs accessible and affordable to low-income families. When the A (H1N1) vaccine becomes available, the same principle must be utilized. The government may also intervene to procure essential medicines to protect the interest of its people.

One public health practitioner has warned that “Complacency, not over-reaction, is the greatest danger posed by the flu pandemic.”5 Our response to the public health emergency that is the A (H1N1) reflects and exposes the inadequacies of our national health care system. Unfortunately, those that bear and suffer are those who cannot access essential health care services. It is now a challenge for local communities to take action to ensure that their lives will not be collateral damage in the battle against influenza A (H1N1).

References:
1 del Carmen, Constancia, MD, unpublished lecture, June 2009 Maersk Global Service Center
3 Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, National Influenza Center, May 2009
4 DOH Interim Guidelines No. 19
5 WHO guidance on public health measures for countries in response to the pandemic of new influenza A (H1N1)
6 Saniel, Mediadora, MD, unpublished lecture, May 2009

Dr. Mesa, a member of the Medical Action Group, is a specialist in emergency medicine. She was involved in the early surveillance of influenza in the Philippines.
Ang Karapatan sa Halal (Voting Rights)

SINO ANG may karapatang bumoto? Ayon sa Saligang Batas (Artikulo V, Sekson 1), ang karapatan sa halal ay maaring gampanan ng lahat ng mga mamamayan ng Pilipinas

• na hindi inalisan ng karapatan ng batas,
• na 18 taong gulang man lamang, at
• nakapanirahan sa Pilipinas sa loob ng 1 taon man lang at 6 na buwan man lamang sa lugar na kanilang bobotohan kagayat bago maghalalan.


Sino ang diskwalipikadong bumoto? Inaalisan ng karapatan sa halal ang mga taong

• Nasentensyahan ng pinal na makulong nang hindi bababa sa isang (1) taon;
• Nasentensyahan ng pinal sa pagkakasalang may kaugnay sa “disloyalty to the duly constituted government”;
• Nadeklara ng awtoridad bilang “insane” (nasiraan ng bait) o “incompetent” (walang kakayahan).

Karapatang bumoto ng mga detenido. Sa unang pagkakataon, pwede nang bumoto ang mga taong:

• nasa piitan, pormal nang nakasuhan at naghihintay o sumasailim sa paglilitis;
• nagsisilbi ng sentensyang hindi lalagpas sa isang taon; o
• umaapela sa sentensyang may kaugnays sa “disloyalty to the duly constituted government.”

Ang “Detainee Voting” ay pwedeng gampanan ng sino mang rehistradong detainee hangga’t hindi deactivated o kanselado ang kanyang rehistro sa COMELEC. Maglalagay ng isang “special polling place” ang COMELEC sa mga bilangguang may 100 o mahigit pang bilanggong botante. Sa mga bilangguang walang ganitong “polling place”, pwedeng i-avail ng mga preso ang “escorted detainee voting”.

SORRY SIR, PERO INCAPABLE KA BUMOTO. SAKA DI KA NAMIN MAKUKUHANAN NG FINGERPRINTS.
PUTTING AN END TO TORTURE

On June 18, 1986, President Corazon Aquino, who then had special legislative powers, approved the Philippines’ accession to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT), less than two years after the UN General Assembly’s adoption of the treaty.

UNCAT’s Article 2, paragraph 1 declares that ‘Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.’ This means that the foremost obligation of states under the UNCAT is to put in place a domestic legal framework banning the use of torture. But 23 years after the Philippine’s adhesion to the UN instrument, there is no local law against torture to speak of.

Some legal luminaries say that the principle of automatic incorporation practically makes the prohibition of torture under the UNCAT part of the law of the land, but in the realistic sense, a local statute is necessary since the UNCAT does not...
prescribe any penalties for acts of torture nor any guidelines in line with the varied domestic contexts of States parties.

Early legislations against torture in line with the convention were proposed and filed during the 12th congress (2001-2004). Various versions were filed by Sen. Sergio R. Osmena III, Sen. Francis N. Pangilinan and Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales. These bills never got past the committee level.

Dedicated to the eradication of torture

In 2000, several organizations joined forces to promote the right not to be tortured in the Philippines, forming the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC). The coalition’s members committed themselves to the submission of an alternative UNCAT report. They also conducted information and education activities on the right not to be tortured and lobbied for the enactment of an anti-torture law. Amidst its public activities and campaign actions over the years, the UATC consistently carried out lobby work in both chambers of the legislature to pursue the refiling and progress of the anti-torture bills. UATC representatives kept close contact with key people at the Senate and House of Representatives, especially staff and legislators of the committees where the bills were lodged. The UATC also provided resource persons during Technical Working Group meetings and public hearings for the improvement, reconciliation and harmonization of the bills. Despite the active involvement of interest groups under the UATC, progressive committee staff, committed legislators and even a human rights stalwart, Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales, (who was Committee on Human Rights Chairperson at the House of Representatives), the 12th congress lapsed without the bills prospering past the committee level.

More disappointments during the 13th Congress

Several Anti-Torture Bills were filed in both chambers during the 13th Congress (2004-2007). Shepherded by the likes of Reps. Rosales, Edcel Lagman and Saturnino Ocampo and backed by the UATC member organizations, a consolidated version of the three bills at the House of Representatives passed the third and final reading. This was an accomplishment for anti-torture advocates.

Unfortunately, the counterpart legislators in the Senate had different priorities. The two bills filed there by Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago and Sergio Osmena III were not calendared for public or committee debate by Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was then the Committee on Justice and Human Rights Chairperson. Without a parallel legislation being worked on at the Senate, the legislative process for the passage of an Anti-Torture Law ground to a halt.

End goal in sight

In the current congress, freedom from torture legislations in both chambers were fortunate to have been given attention. Sponsors of the bills as well as the committee staff had a mindset favorable to the progress of the measures. At the House of Representatives, Reps. Lagman, Ocampo and Risa Hontiveros had re-filed their versions; at the
Senate, Sen. Santiago re-filed her bill while Senators Francis Escudero and Rodolfo Biazon filed their own versions. The Committee on Justice and the Committee on Human Rights at the Lower House agreed to jointly sponsor the measures. In spite of several contentious issues, public hearings at the committee level led to the reconciliation of the various versions into one consolidated draft for each chamber.

Disunited

In recent years, debate at the international level on the legal accountability of non-state actors has become broader. The established view that human rights instruments should cover the protection of people from arbitrary action of the state only, which was originally the purpose of their adoption, has been increasingly questioned and even strongly opposed by individuals and organizations around the world. This debate has led towards the growing recognition of individual and non-state accountability in human rights.

It is indeed exceedingly offensive that public officials be remunerated by the people to ensure their security should become torturers. However, a line of reasoning put forward is that torture is committed by fellow human beings, not their legal identities. The use of torture is intended to systematically dismantle the person’s mind, body and spirit, his or her very humanity. From the victim’s perspective, torture will be torture, no matter who carries it out.

It is important to say that the UNCAT, in Art. 1(2), provides that its definition of torture is “without prejudice to any international instrument or national legislation which does or may contain provisions of wider application.”

The human rights community in the Philippines, to this day, remains divided on the issue. Some had chosen to ignore the matter or refrained from openly stating their position. This silent discord has caused some unsettling moments in various collaborations and partnerships. Nonetheless, human rights advocates were prompted by the recent positive developments in the progress of the proposed legislation on torture, to collectively address the question of whether to promote the inclusion of Non-State Actor (NSA) accountability in the measure. Whether or not NSAs would be held accountable under the measure would in essence depend on the very definition of torture.

Most organizations within UATC agreed that NSAs (e.g., groups engaged in armed struggle, the Moro separatist groups, and private corporations and groups with their own militia) should be held answerable for their atrocities. The manner in which they should be brought to justice is a different matter.

Human rights proponents, organizations and individuals outside the UATC formed the Committee on Accountability of Non-State Armed Groups (CALASAG) to advocate that the legal definition of torture and enforced disappearance not be limited to acts committed by state agents. All groups and individuals who prescribe to the “all inclusive” definition strongly assert that the state still has the primary and special responsibility to take effective measures to prevent torture and enforced disappearance. Hence, higher penalties should be imposed on state agents.

The Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIN) also strongly advocated their institutional opinion which favored the exclusion of NSAs from the HR measures.

With the active involvement of UATC member organizations, the consolidated proposed Anti-Torture measure at the House of Representatives (which was now known as House Bill No. 5709) moved through the legislative process. Upon its passage at the committee level, the bill swiftly made its way through sponsorship at the plenary and then approval on second and third reading. As the bill approached its last hurdle, UATC representatives, torture survivors and other advocates held vigil at the House of Representatives to demonstrate their interest in the passage of the Anti-Torture Law. House Bill 5709 was finally approved at the House of Representatives on March 4, 2009.


The tasks at hand

The Anti-Torture Law mandates the Department of Justice and the Philippine Commission on Human Rights to jointly promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the Act. The drafting of the implementing rules and regulations shall be done with the active participation of human rights NGOs.

Moreover, NGOs focusing on the right not to be tortured should also be part of the mechanism that will monitor the implementation of the law.

There remains much to be done in the struggle for the right not to be tortured in the Philippines. Anti-torture advocates should continue to be watchful to ensure that the law, which took 22 years to be passed, will effectively protect the citizens from torture and other cruel forms of treatment, and that perpetrators will be brought to justice.

Ellecer Carlos works with BALAY Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
Detainees may Vote on May 10

SOME 24,000 detainees will be allowed to exercise their right to vote in the May 10 elections, the first time in the country’s election history that detainees will be enfranchised.

In February this year, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) passed a resolution implementing the right to vote of persons deprived of their liberty. The resolution is a result of a petition by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) urging the COMELEC “to enforce constitutional and statutory provisions on the right of suffrage of PDLs.”

COMELEC will set up special polling precincts in detention facilities with more than 100 voters, to be run by special board of election inspectors. For facilities with less than 100 inmates, the voters will be escorted by jail personnel to their polling precinct.

Sources:

Automation won’t address election fraud — survey

A NATIONWIDE survey conducted by IBON early this year showed that the majority of Filipinos believe that the problem of alleged poll fraud will not be addressed by automation.

Survey results showed that “of the 85.4% of respondents who are aware of the poll automation program, 63% believe that it will not solve fraud” in the May 2010 elections. The nationwide survey was conducted on January 9-17, 2010 among 1,495 respondents.

Source: http://info.ibon.org/ibon_articles.php?id=52

Tuition Fee Will Not Increase, Says CHED

FOLLOWING PROTEST actions by students opposing tuition fee increases, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) recently announced that “steps have been taken” to ensure that no state university/college (SUC) will increase tuition fees this coming school year.

CHED’s announcement came after student and youth groups staged a series of protests at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Sta. Mesa, Manila, in University of the Philippines-Diliman, and at the main office of CHED in Diliman, Quezon City.

CHED is however expecting that some private universities and colleges will be charging higher tuition fees this June 2010. Partial data from CHED shows that some 225 colleges would implement an average tuition increase of 7% for school year 2010-2011.

LABADA REPUBLIC

8 Injured in Goldilocks Picket Line

EIGHT STRIKING workers sustained serious head and limb injuries on March 19, 2010 when security guards and strike breakers employed by Goldilocks Bakeshop attacked the picket line of some 200 workers of the cake and restaurant chain.

The strike at the company’s cake and food plant in Mandaluyong started on March 11, 2010. The workers are demanding the reinstatement of 127 regular workers who were summarily dismissed by Goldilocks. The dismissed workers are mostly leaders and members of Bukluran ng Independente ng Samahan na Itinatag sa Goldilocks (BISIG). BISIG had earlier won union elections, but the company refuses to recognize the union.

The workers are also demanding an end to the company’s policy of replacing regular workers with contractual labor.

Joel Lachica, BISIG union president, recalls that when Goldilocks workers held a strike in 1991, three workers were killed and six were wounded when the police fired at the picket line.
**THE RIGHT WORDS:**

“IT IS not power that corrupts, but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts.”

- Aung San Suu Kyi

**HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY**

Women’s suffrage in the Philippines

Women in the Philippines won the right of suffrage on April 30, 1937 in a special plebiscite. In that plebiscite, 90% voted in favor of granting women the right to vote and stand for office.

The 1935 Constitution did not grant women the right to vote, limiting the right of suffrage to male citizens because “there was no popular demand for the right of suffrage by Filipino women themselves.” It was likewise believed that granting women the right of suffrage “would only disrupt family unity as the women will plunge into the swamp of politics.” Instead, the framers of the Constitution left the issue of women’s suffrage for the women themselves to decide, by ordering a plebiscite on the issue to be held within two years after the adoption of the Constitution. The stipulation was that “not less than 300,000 women possessing the necessary qualifications shall vote affirmatively on the question.”

During the plebiscite, a total of 447,725 women cast their votes in favor of women’s right of suffrage. Interestingly, 44,307 voted against the proposal.

Yet 73 years after women’s suffrage took effect, there is still no “women’s vote” in Philippine elections. A study by the Ateneo School of Government and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung concluded that the “women working for women” cannot be seen in the results of recent elections. There is no “sectoral vote”, the study said, because “Groups representing sectors cannot rely on their sectoral constituencies to win them seats.”

Why a “women’s vote” in the Philippines does not exist is difficult to explain. There are more women registered voters than men, and voter turnout is always higher among females than among male voters.

SOURCES:

http://womensphere.wordpress.com/2008/05/06/womens-suffrage-in-the-philippines-71-years-after/
http://www.peacewomen.org/news/AsiaPacific/April08/PhilippinesWom-Suff.html
http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2008/apr/30/yehey/top_stories/20080430top5.html

**CORRECTION:**

In the article “The calm before the storm: More job losses expected as the global economic crisis continues,” published in the Human Rights Forum, Vol. V, No. 4, Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) was mentioned as having shaved off 889 employees, as indicated in the article’s original source materials. These source documents were later amended, showing that it was another company that laid off workers. We stand corrected.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

Nursing Schools: The Best and the Worst

**LICENSENCE EXAMINATION FOR NURSES**

**BEST PERFORMING SCHOOLS, 2006-2007**

**BIGGEST SCHOOLS AND BIG SCHOOLS**

**TOP 10 Cluster 1 (1000 or more examinees) for the year 2006 and 2007**, Biggest Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>2006 PASSING %</th>
<th>2006 RANK</th>
<th>2007 PASSING %</th>
<th>2007 RANK</th>
<th>AVE. RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Pedro College-Davao City</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far Eastern University-Manila</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Fatima University-Valenzuela</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liceo De Cagayan University</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Perpetual Help System-Laguna</td>
<td>IV-A</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Fatima College-Q.C.</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brokenshire College</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern University</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Baguio</td>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Mindanao State University</td>
<td>IX</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 100 to 999 examinees only

**LICENSENCE EXAMINATION FOR NURSES**

**WORST PERFORMING SCHOOLS, 2006-2007**

**BIGGEST SCHOOLS AND BIG SCHOOLS**

**BOTTOM 5 Cluster 1 (1000 or more examinees) for the year 2006 and 2007**, Biggest Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>2006 PASSING %</th>
<th>2006 RANK</th>
<th>2007 PASSING %</th>
<th>2007 RANK</th>
<th>AVE. RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medina College-Ozamis City</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City College of Urdaneta (Urdaneta Comm. Coll.)</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nueva Ecija College</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyceum North-western</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 100 to 999 examinees only
### LICENSE EXAMINATION FOR NURSES
#### BEST PERFORMING SCHOOLS, 2006-2007

**TOP 10 Cluster 1 (1000 or more examinees) for the year 2006 and 2007, Biggest Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>AVE.</th>
<th>RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xavier University (Ateneo De Cagayan)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Louis University</td>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Visayas State University- La paz</td>
<td>VI</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silliman University</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Paul University- Iloilo</td>
<td>VI</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamantasang Lungsod ng Maynila</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Mem Medical Ctr</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity University of Asia (Trinity-Q.C.)</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Santa Tomas</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cebu Doctors University (Cebu Doctors College)</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LICENSE EXAMINATION FOR NURSES
#### WORST PERFORMING SCHOOLS, 2006-2007

**BOTTOM 30 Cluster 1 (100 to 999 examinees) for the year 2006 and 2007, Big Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>AVE.</th>
<th>RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golden West Colleges</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11**</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medina College-Pagadian (St. John Gen. Hosp. &amp; Coll.)</td>
<td>IX</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamets Colleges-La Union</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10**</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unciano Colleges &amp; General Hospital-Manila</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City College of Urdaneta (Urdaneta Community College)</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Union College of Nursing, Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>no record</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame of Jolo College</td>
<td>ARMM</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ago Foundation College</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Luzon College of Science &amp; Technology-Olongapo</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19*</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Ocampo Memorial Colleges</td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Davao College-Tagum Foundation</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultan Kudarat Educational Institution</td>
<td>XII</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ago Medical &amp; Educational Center-Bicol Christian Coll. Of Med</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mindanao Medical Foundation College</td>
<td>XI</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Pablo Colleges</td>
<td>IV-A</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo: Task Force Detainees of the Philippines
Since April 2004, the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights) has been accepting interns from local and international institutions and universities. This Internship Program is open to college students, researchers or professionals who want to expand their experience in human rights work. Interns are assigned to one of PhilRights' four institutional programs: information, research, training, and monitoring/documentation.

For details, please contact Mr. Pepito D. Frias, PhilRights Training Associate, at 433-1714 and 426-4048; E-mail: philrights@philrights.org.