

HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

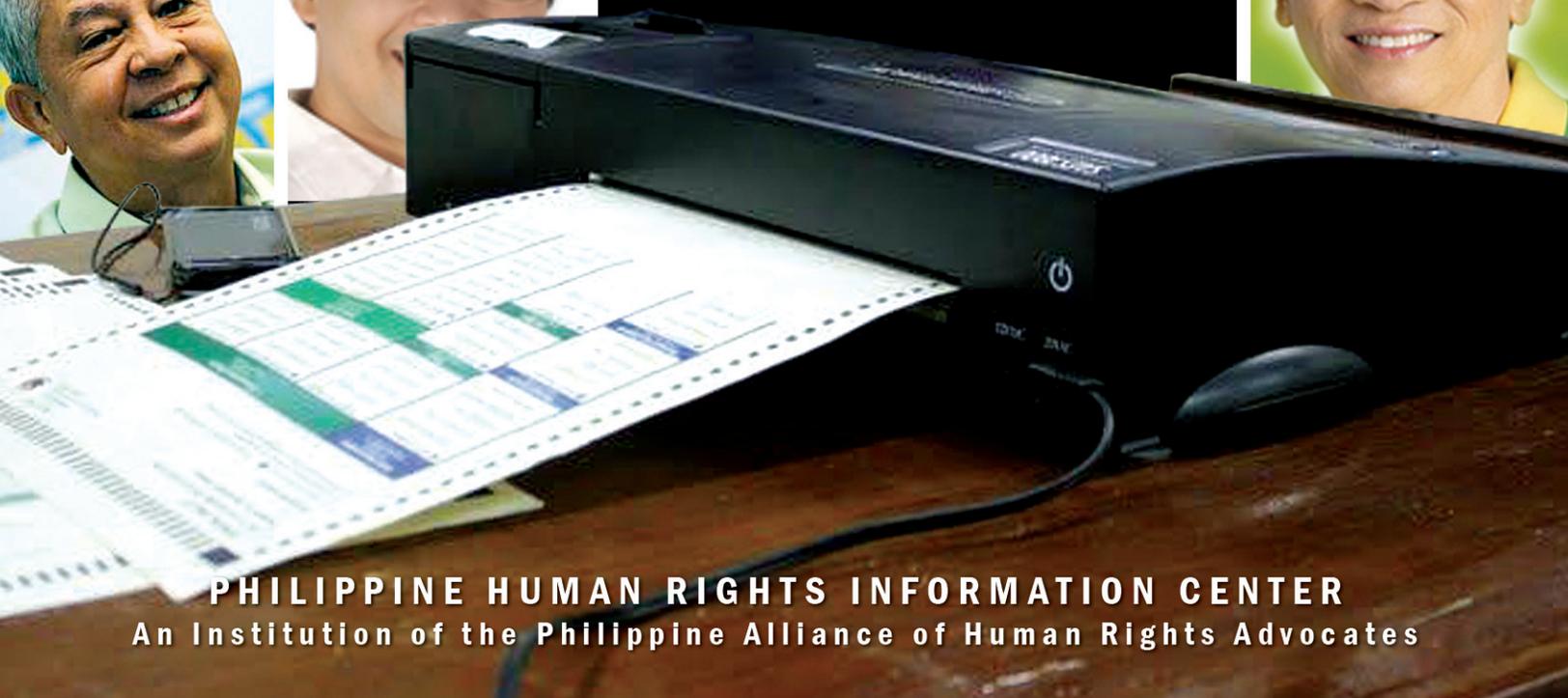
Volume 7 ● Number 1

MARCH 2010



SOUND AND FURY:

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 2010 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER
An Institution of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates

TABLE OF CONTENTS



JM VILLERIO



JOY ANNE ICAYAN



JAY AZUCENA



BALAY REHABILITATION CENTER, INC.

4 Sound and fury:
HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 2010
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

7 D2 TAYO! (DEFEND DIGNITY)
SA RIGHTS AGENDA

8 A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE AGENDA
ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

14 AUTOMATED NA

18 CROSSING BARRIERS
By Dr. Faith Mesa

21 ALAMIN ANG INYONG MGA KARAPATAN

22 PUTTING AN END TO TORTURE
By Ellecer Carlos

25 HR DIGEST

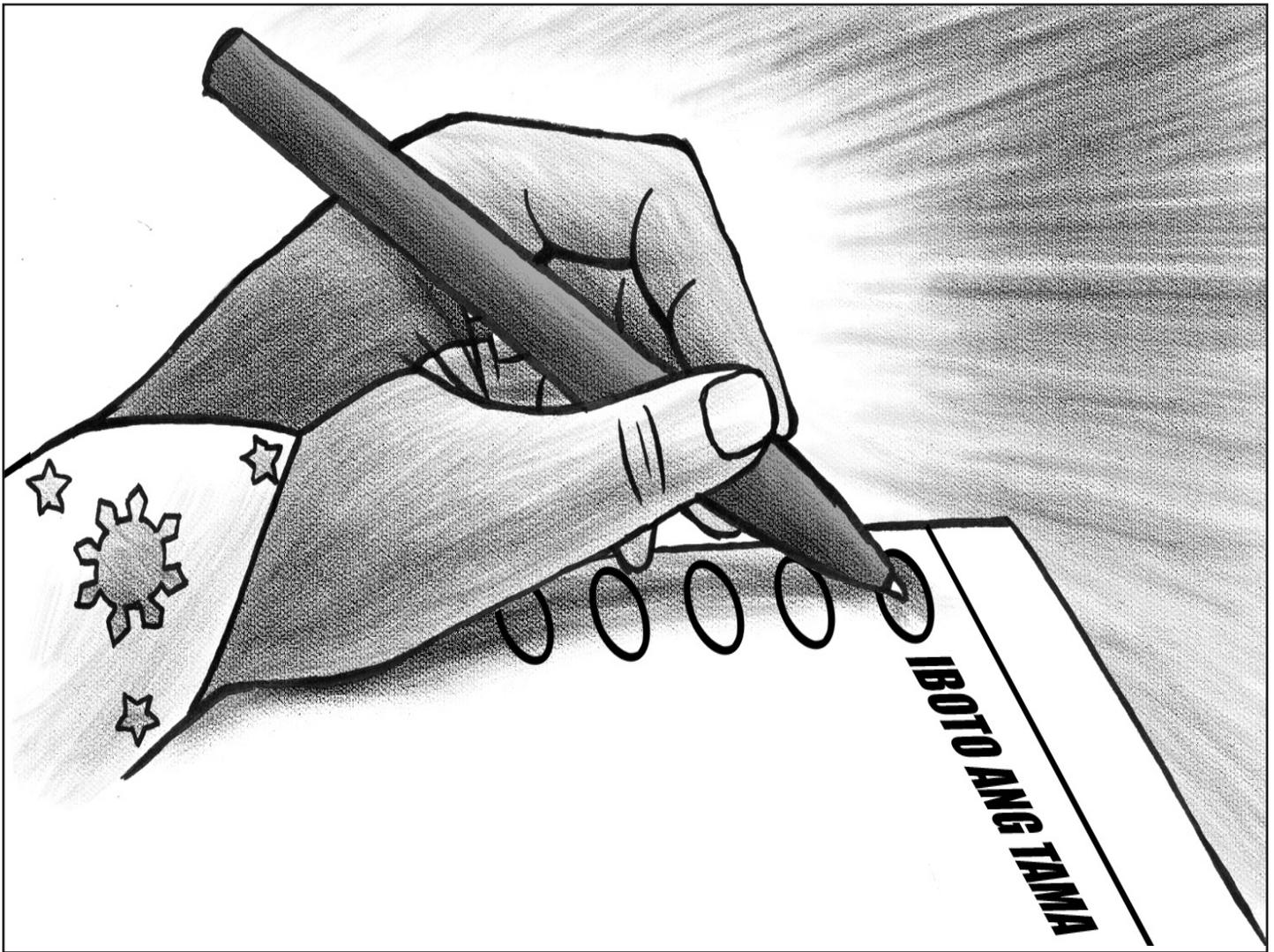
26 HR TRIVIA

26 FACTS AND FIGURES



Editorial Board • **NYMIA PIMENTEL-SIMBULAN DR. P.H.** • **SONNY MELENCIO** • **GINA DELA CRUZ** •
Editor - **JM VILLERIO** • Editorial Assistants - **JAY Z. AZUCENA** • **MARIA KATHERINE**
BERNADETTE R. CANSINO • **SAMANTHA V. VILLEGAS**
Art Director - **VANELI** • Illustrator - **EUGENE BACASMAS**

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



■ EDITORYAL

Itakda ang kinabukasan ng bayan

MALAPIT NA ang Mayo 10, isang araw sa kasaysayan ng ating bansa kung saan nabubura ang hindi pagkakapantay-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 mapagpasya sa pagpapanalo ng mga karapatdapat na pinuno ng ating bansa sa susunod na 3 hanggang 6 na taong panunungkulan sa iba't ibang sangay at antas ng gobyerno.

Ang pag-*exercise* at pag-angkin ng karapatang bumoto 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 ating mga magsasaka; maayos na trabaho o paghihikahos 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 karapatang bumoto 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. Jambay 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.

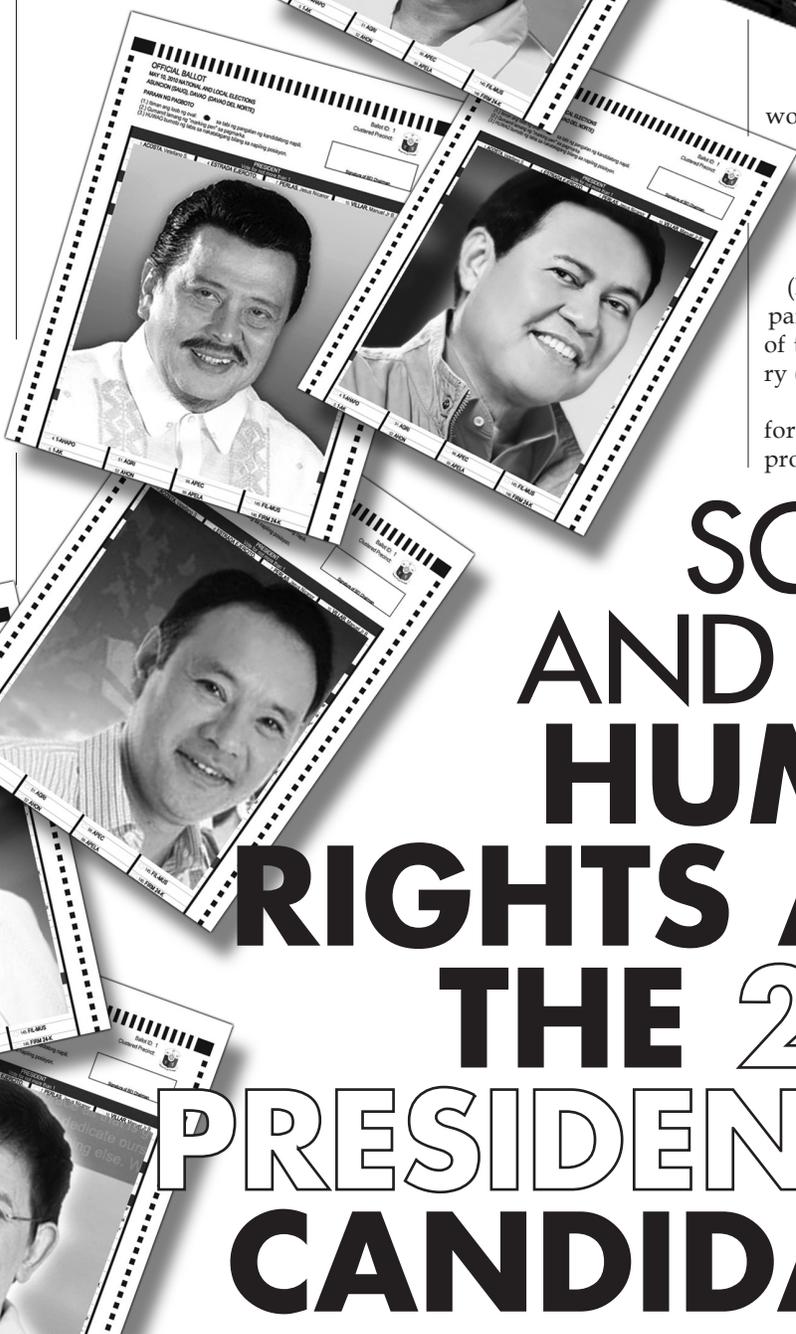
Provisions for *accountability* and *participation* were also looked into. Not surprisingly, the various parties/candidates view accountability from different perspectives: Bangon Pilipinas and Lakas discuss accountability in relation to transparency in government transactions; NP and Madrigal believe 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-



SOUND AND FURY: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 2010 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

VICES were not discussed as rights but as programs.

Survey Results⁴

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 extra-judicial 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

OFFICIAL BALLOT		Ballot # 1	
1998 ELECTIONS (NATIONAL ELECTIONS)			
ABACON (BAGONG DAUNG BAGONG NEGOSYANTE)			
PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES			
1. AGUIA, Antonio B.	2. ESTRADA, Ricardo J.	3. FERRER, Jesus Teresita	4. VILLAR, Samuel B. III
5. ALABIA, Daniel (Gordon)	6. GORDON, Romeo Jr. R.	7. TORONDO, Cleber Jr.	8. WAGNER, Jr. R.
9. ALONSO, Juanito	10. LACUNA, Teodoro	11. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	12. YONG, Jr. R.
13. ALONSO, Juanito	14. LACUNA, Teodoro	15. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	16. YONG, Jr. R.
MAYOR			
17. ALONSO, Juanito	18. LACUNA, Teodoro	19. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	20. YONG, Jr. R.
MAYOR ALTERNATE			
21. ALONSO, Juanito	22. LACUNA, Teodoro	23. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	24. YONG, Jr. R.
PROVINCIAL BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES			
25. ALONSO, Juanito	26. LACUNA, Teodoro	27. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	28. YONG, Jr. R.
29. ALONSO, Juanito	30. LACUNA, Teodoro	31. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	32. YONG, Jr. R.
33. ALONSO, Juanito	34. LACUNA, Teodoro	35. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	36. YONG, Jr. R.
37. ALONSO, Juanito	38. LACUNA, Teodoro	39. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	40. YONG, Jr. R.
41. ALONSO, Juanito	42. LACUNA, Teodoro	43. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	44. YONG, Jr. R.
45. ALONSO, Juanito	46. LACUNA, Teodoro	47. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	48. YONG, Jr. R.
49. ALONSO, Juanito	50. LACUNA, Teodoro	51. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	52. YONG, Jr. R.
53. ALONSO, Juanito	54. LACUNA, Teodoro	55. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	56. YONG, Jr. R.
57. ALONSO, Juanito	58. LACUNA, Teodoro	59. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	60. YONG, Jr. R.
61. ALONSO, Juanito	62. LACUNA, Teodoro	63. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	64. YONG, Jr. R.
65. ALONSO, Juanito	66. LACUNA, Teodoro	67. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	68. YONG, Jr. R.
69. ALONSO, Juanito	70. LACUNA, Teodoro	71. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	72. YONG, Jr. R.
73. ALONSO, Juanito	74. LACUNA, Teodoro	75. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	76. YONG, Jr. R.
77. ALONSO, Juanito	78. LACUNA, Teodoro	79. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	80. YONG, Jr. R.
81. ALONSO, Juanito	82. LACUNA, Teodoro	83. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	84. YONG, Jr. R.
85. ALONSO, Juanito	86. LACUNA, Teodoro	87. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	88. YONG, Jr. R.
89. ALONSO, Juanito	90. LACUNA, Teodoro	91. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	92. YONG, Jr. R.
93. ALONSO, Juanito	94. LACUNA, Teodoro	95. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	96. YONG, Jr. R.
97. ALONSO, Juanito	98. LACUNA, Teodoro	99. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	100. YONG, Jr. R.
101. ALONSO, Juanito	102. LACUNA, Teodoro	103. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	104. YONG, Jr. R.
105. ALONSO, Juanito	106. LACUNA, Teodoro	107. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	108. YONG, Jr. R.
109. ALONSO, Juanito	110. LACUNA, Teodoro	111. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	112. YONG, Jr. R.
113. ALONSO, Juanito	114. LACUNA, Teodoro	115. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	116. YONG, Jr. R.
117. ALONSO, Juanito	118. LACUNA, Teodoro	119. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	120. YONG, Jr. R.
121. ALONSO, Juanito	122. LACUNA, Teodoro	123. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	124. YONG, Jr. R.
125. ALONSO, Juanito	126. LACUNA, Teodoro	127. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	128. YONG, Jr. R.
129. ALONSO, Juanito	130. LACUNA, Teodoro	131. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	132. YONG, Jr. R.
133. ALONSO, Juanito	134. LACUNA, Teodoro	135. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	136. YONG, Jr. R.
137. ALONSO, Juanito	138. LACUNA, Teodoro	139. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	140. YONG, Jr. R.
141. ALONSO, Juanito	142. LACUNA, Teodoro	143. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	144. YONG, Jr. R.
145. ALONSO, Juanito	146. LACUNA, Teodoro	147. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	148. YONG, Jr. R.
149. ALONSO, Juanito	150. LACUNA, Teodoro	151. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	152. YONG, Jr. R.
153. ALONSO, Juanito	154. LACUNA, Teodoro	155. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	156. YONG, Jr. R.
157. ALONSO, Juanito	158. LACUNA, Teodoro	159. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	160. YONG, Jr. R.
161. ALONSO, Juanito	162. LACUNA, Teodoro	163. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	164. YONG, Jr. R.
165. ALONSO, Juanito	166. LACUNA, Teodoro	167. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	168. YONG, Jr. R.
169. ALONSO, Juanito	170. LACUNA, Teodoro	171. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	172. YONG, Jr. R.
173. ALONSO, Juanito	174. LACUNA, Teodoro	175. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	176. YONG, Jr. R.
177. ALONSO, Juanito	178. LACUNA, Teodoro	179. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	180. YONG, Jr. R.
181. ALONSO, Juanito	182. LACUNA, Teodoro	183. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	184. YONG, Jr. R.
185. ALONSO, Juanito	186. LACUNA, Teodoro	187. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	188. YONG, Jr. R.
189. ALONSO, Juanito	190. LACUNA, Teodoro	191. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	192. YONG, Jr. R.
193. ALONSO, Juanito	194. LACUNA, Teodoro	195. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	196. YONG, Jr. R.
197. ALONSO, Juanito	198. LACUNA, Teodoro	199. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	200. YONG, Jr. R.
201. ALONSO, Juanito	202. LACUNA, Teodoro	203. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	204. YONG, Jr. R.
205. ALONSO, Juanito	206. LACUNA, Teodoro	207. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	208. YONG, Jr. R.
209. ALONSO, Juanito	210. LACUNA, Teodoro	211. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	212. YONG, Jr. R.
213. ALONSO, Juanito	214. LACUNA, Teodoro	215. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	216. YONG, Jr. R.
217. ALONSO, Juanito	218. LACUNA, Teodoro	219. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	220. YONG, Jr. R.
221. ALONSO, Juanito	222. LACUNA, Teodoro	223. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	224. YONG, Jr. R.
225. ALONSO, Juanito	226. LACUNA, Teodoro	227. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	228. YONG, Jr. R.
229. ALONSO, Juanito	230. LACUNA, Teodoro	231. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	232. YONG, Jr. R.
233. ALONSO, Juanito	234. LACUNA, Teodoro	235. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	236. YONG, Jr. R.
237. ALONSO, Juanito	238. LACUNA, Teodoro	239. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	240. YONG, Jr. R.
241. ALONSO, Juanito	242. LACUNA, Teodoro	243. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	244. YONG, Jr. R.
245. ALONSO, Juanito	246. LACUNA, Teodoro	247. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	248. YONG, Jr. R.
249. ALONSO, Juanito	250. LACUNA, Teodoro	251. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	252. YONG, Jr. R.
253. ALONSO, Juanito	254. LACUNA, Teodoro	255. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	256. YONG, Jr. R.
257. ALONSO, Juanito	258. LACUNA, Teodoro	259. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	260. YONG, Jr. R.
261. ALONSO, Juanito	262. LACUNA, Teodoro	263. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	264. YONG, Jr. R.
265. ALONSO, Juanito	266. LACUNA, Teodoro	267. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	268. YONG, Jr. R.
269. ALONSO, Juanito	270. LACUNA, Teodoro	271. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	272. YONG, Jr. R.
273. ALONSO, Juanito	274. LACUNA, Teodoro	275. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	276. YONG, Jr. R.
277. ALONSO, Juanito	278. LACUNA, Teodoro	279. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	280. YONG, Jr. R.
281. ALONSO, Juanito	282. LACUNA, Teodoro	283. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	284. YONG, Jr. R.
285. ALONSO, Juanito	286. LACUNA, Teodoro	287. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	288. YONG, Jr. R.
289. ALONSO, Juanito	290. LACUNA, Teodoro	291. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	292. YONG, Jr. R.
293. ALONSO, Juanito	294. LACUNA, Teodoro	295. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	296. YONG, Jr. R.
297. ALONSO, Juanito	298. LACUNA, Teodoro	299. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	300. YONG, Jr. R.
301. ALONSO, Juanito	302. LACUNA, Teodoro	303. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	304. YONG, Jr. R.
305. ALONSO, Juanito	306. LACUNA, Teodoro	307. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	308. YONG, Jr. R.
309. ALONSO, Juanito	310. LACUNA, Teodoro	311. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	312. YONG, Jr. R.
313. ALONSO, Juanito	314. LACUNA, Teodoro	315. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	316. YONG, Jr. R.
317. ALONSO, Juanito	318. LACUNA, Teodoro	319. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	320. YONG, Jr. R.
321. ALONSO, Juanito	322. LACUNA, Teodoro	323. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	324. YONG, Jr. R.
325. ALONSO, Juanito	326. LACUNA, Teodoro	327. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	328. YONG, Jr. R.
329. ALONSO, Juanito	330. LACUNA, Teodoro	331. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	332. YONG, Jr. R.
333. ALONSO, Juanito	334. LACUNA, Teodoro	335. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	336. YONG, Jr. R.
337. ALONSO, Juanito	338. LACUNA, Teodoro	339. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	340. YONG, Jr. R.
341. ALONSO, Juanito	342. LACUNA, Teodoro	343. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	344. YONG, Jr. R.
345. ALONSO, Juanito	346. LACUNA, Teodoro	347. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	348. YONG, Jr. R.
349. ALONSO, Juanito	350. LACUNA, Teodoro	351. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	352. YONG, Jr. R.
353. ALONSO, Juanito	354. LACUNA, Teodoro	355. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	356. YONG, Jr. R.
357. ALONSO, Juanito	358. LACUNA, Teodoro	359. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	360. YONG, Jr. R.
361. ALONSO, Juanito	362. LACUNA, Teodoro	363. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	364. YONG, Jr. R.
365. ALONSO, Juanito	366. LACUNA, Teodoro	367. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	368. YONG, Jr. R.
369. ALONSO, Juanito	370. LACUNA, Teodoro	371. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	372. YONG, Jr. R.
373. ALONSO, Juanito	374. LACUNA, Teodoro	375. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	376. YONG, Jr. R.
377. ALONSO, Juanito	378. LACUNA, Teodoro	379. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	380. YONG, Jr. R.
381. ALONSO, Juanito	382. LACUNA, Teodoro	383. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	384. YONG, Jr. R.
385. ALONSO, Juanito	386. LACUNA, Teodoro	387. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	388. YONG, Jr. R.
389. ALONSO, Juanito	390. LACUNA, Teodoro	391. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	392. YONG, Jr. R.
393. ALONSO, Juanito	394. LACUNA, Teodoro	395. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	396. YONG, Jr. R.
397. ALONSO, Juanito	398. LACUNA, Teodoro	399. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	400. YONG, Jr. R.
401. ALONSO, Juanito	402. LACUNA, Teodoro	403. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	404. YONG, Jr. R.
405. ALONSO, Juanito	406. LACUNA, Teodoro	407. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	408. YONG, Jr. R.
409. ALONSO, Juanito	410. LACUNA, Teodoro	411. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	412. YONG, Jr. R.
413. ALONSO, Juanito	414. LACUNA, Teodoro	415. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	416. YONG, Jr. R.
417. ALONSO, Juanito	418. LACUNA, Teodoro	419. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	420. YONG, Jr. R.
421. ALONSO, Juanito	422. LACUNA, Teodoro	423. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	424. YONG, Jr. R.
425. ALONSO, Juanito	426. LACUNA, Teodoro	427. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	428. YONG, Jr. R.
429. ALONSO, Juanito	430. LACUNA, Teodoro	431. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	432. YONG, Jr. R.
433. ALONSO, Juanito	434. LACUNA, Teodoro	435. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	436. YONG, Jr. R.
437. ALONSO, Juanito	438. LACUNA, Teodoro	439. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	440. YONG, Jr. R.
441. ALONSO, Juanito	442. LACUNA, Teodoro	443. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	444. YONG, Jr. R.
445. ALONSO, Juanito	446. LACUNA, Teodoro	447. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	448. YONG, Jr. R.
449. ALONSO, Juanito	450. LACUNA, Teodoro	451. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	452. YONG, Jr. R.
453. ALONSO, Juanito	454. LACUNA, Teodoro	455. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	456. YONG, Jr. R.
457. ALONSO, Juanito	458. LACUNA, Teodoro	459. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	460. YONG, Jr. R.
461. ALONSO, Juanito	462. LACUNA, Teodoro	463. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	464. YONG, Jr. R.
465. ALONSO, Juanito	466. LACUNA, Teodoro	467. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	468. YONG, Jr. R.
469. ALONSO, Juanito	470. LACUNA, Teodoro	471. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	472. YONG, Jr. R.
473. ALONSO, Juanito	474. LACUNA, Teodoro	475. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	476. YONG, Jr. R.
477. ALONSO, Juanito	478. LACUNA, Teodoro	479. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	480. YONG, Jr. R.
481. ALONSO, Juanito	482. LACUNA, Teodoro	483. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	484. YONG, Jr. R.
485. ALONSO, Juanito	486. LACUNA, Teodoro	487. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	488. YONG, Jr. R.
489. ALONSO, Juanito	490. LACUNA, Teodoro	491. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	492. YONG, Jr. R.
493. ALONSO, Juanito	494. LACUNA, Teodoro	495. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	496. YONG, Jr. R.
497. ALONSO, Juanito	498. LACUNA, Teodoro	499. SORIANO, Cleber Jr.	500. YONG, Jr. R.

contributions of men and women".

Pangmasa's top three human rights issues are: a) abolishing private armies; b) re-opening 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 Forums⁵

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 Kapatiran 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, Perlas (Ind.) stressed that because IPs 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 reimposition 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 reimpose 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 "Ikaw Na Ba" Series hosted by Mike Enriquez, and the ANC "Harapan" Presidential Forum (which aired on January 29, 2010).

Platforms Reviewed:

Ang Kapatiran Party. *Ang Kapatiran Party Political Platform.*

Bagumbayan Party. *Manifesto for Change.*

Bangon Pilipinas. *Platform of Government and Statement of Basic Principles and Policies for Governance of Bangon Pilipinas party 2010.*

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.*

Liberal Party. *Partido Liberal Pilipinas Platform.*

Nacionalista Party. *In Response to the People's Concerns*

Partido ng Marangal na Sambayanan. *Platform of the Partido ng Marangal na Sambayanan.*

Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino. *Partido ng Masang Pilipino Platform of Government.*

.....
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 and Elections: A Handbook on Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections

D2 TAYO! (Defend Dignity) sa RIGHTS Agenda

HINAHAMON NG mga organisasyong nag-tataguyod ng Karapatang Pantao ang mga tumatakbo sa pagkapangulo, gayundin ang lahat ng mga kumakandidato sa eleksiyon sa May 2010, na pakinggan ang sigaw ng mamayan para sa karapatan, kapayapaan at hustisya.

Ang 10-point adyenda sa Karapatang Pantao 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.

GAWING SALALAYAN AT BALANGKAS ANG KARAPATANG PANTAO SA MGA PANUKALANG BATAS

Put Human Rights in Philippine Laws

- Itigil ang represyon, iligal na pag-aaresto, tortyur, sapilitang pagkawala at extra judicial killings.
- Prayoridad at sapat na pondo sa mga serbisyong panlipunan tulad ng kalusugan, pabahay, edukasyon at pagkain. Ibasura ang Presidential Decree 1177 o awtomatikong paglalaan ng malaking bahagi ng national budget sa pagbabayad ng utang.
- Karapatan ng mga bata at kababaihan laban sa pang-aabuso, diskriminasyon, korapsyon, pagsasamantala, at karahasan. Ipasa ng Reproductive Health Bill at batas laban sa diskriminasyon.
- Pawalang bisa ang Philippine Mining Act of 1995 at pagtibayin ang Alternative Mining Bill.



Photos: JM VILLERO

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

IPATUPAD ANG MGA KARAPATANG PANTAO SA MGA PLANO AT PAGPAPATUPAD NG MGA PROYEKTONG PANGKAULANRAN

Human Rights in Development

- Maka-kalikasan, maka-karapatang pantaong pag-unlad.
- Proyektong may respeto sa karapatan ng mga katutubong Pilipino at mga Moro, lalo na ang kanilang karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya at karapatan sa lupaing ninuno.



GAWING PUNDASYON NG KAPAYAPAAN ANG MGA KARAPATANG PANTAO

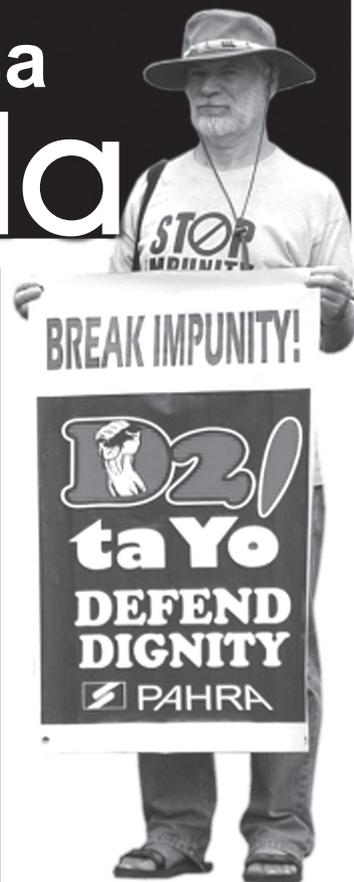
Human Rights in Peace

- Sinserong pagtataguyod ng prosesong pangkapayapaan at paggalang sa mga karapatang pantao ng magkakabanggang panig.
- Maayos na rehabilitasyon at sapat na pagkain, pabahay at patubig sa mga naaapektuhan ng labanan ng mga rebelde at pwersa ng gobyerno.

GAWING PAMANTAYAN ANG MGA KARAPATANG PANTAO SA PAMAMAHALA

Human Rights in Governance

- Reporma sa pamamahala at sandatahang lakas para sa pagtatanggol sa mga karapatang pantao.
- Karapatan ng mga manggagawa, karapatan sa disentang hanap-buhay, sapat at makatarungang pasahod at katiyakan sa



trabaho. Pagsugpo sa lumalalang kontraktwalisasyon at pagwasak sa mga unyon.

- Pagsusumite ng mga ulat sa tamang panahon at pagtugon sa mga payo o obserbasyon ng mga kinatawan at komite sa karapatang pantao ng United Nations (UN).

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).



A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE AGENDA ON GOOD GOVERNANCE



JAY AZUCENA

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-



JOY ANNE ICAYAN

man 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-aggrandizement 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.

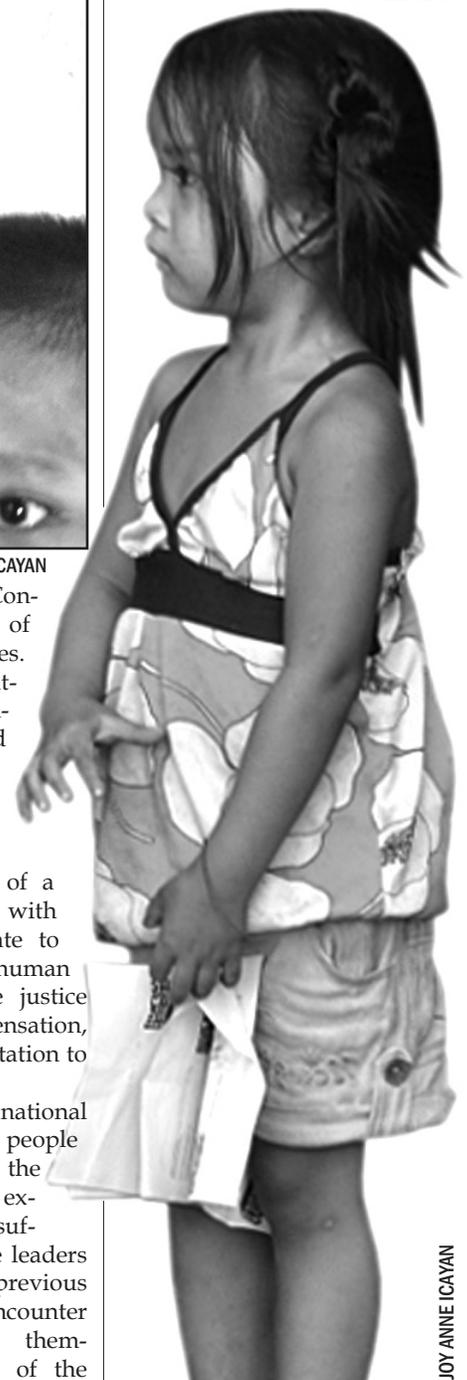
The Philippine government is one of the member states of the United Nations which has consistently declared its commitment to human rights by ratifying virtually all the key human rights instruments. To date, it is a State Party to eight (8) major human rights laws: the Convention on the Elimination 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

(CPMW), 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



JAY AZUCENA



JOY ANNE ICAYAN

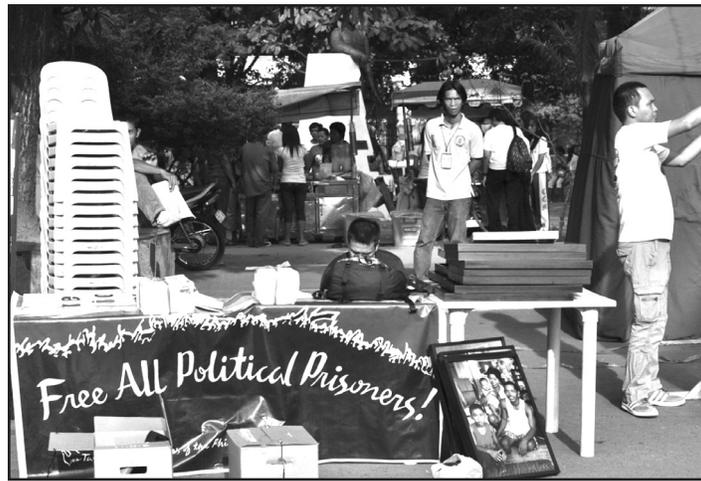
poor", "defenders of the oppressed", "hope of the nation," and "guardians of democracy". The candidates will be armed with all sorts of incentives, gimmicks and promises declaring the people's redemption is imminent and the birth of a great nation is approaching once they get elected into power.

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



Photos: JAY AZUCENA

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 Peoples 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 2007 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.

- Revoke 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



- government, military and police officials undergoing investigation for human rights violations or named as respondents in criminal cases, and issue appropriate sanctions when found guilty.

- Bring to justice (in proceedings which meet international standards of fairness) military or police personnel regardless of rank, including those with command responsibility, identified by investigations as responsible for human rights violations.

- Incorporate international human rights and humanitarian law standards as an integral and permanent component of training for police, military and their auxiliaries, particularly through the development and implementation of a practicable human rights primer for agencies belonging to the country's security sector. The human rights primer must include practical information such as rights-based procedures for arrest and detention, appropriate use of force when necessary, interrogation of criminal or terrorist suspects without recourse to torture and other ill-treatment in any circumstance.

- 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 commanders 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

- Revoke Executive Order 546.

3. Review the counterinsurgency plan/policy and establish a truth and reconciliation mechanism as part of the peace process.

Despite clear and repeated calls by Filipinos and the international community for

truth and accountability for the country's deplorable record of serious human rights violations and abuses, particularly those committed in the context of the longstanding and intermittent armed conflicts between the AFP and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New Peoples Army, only a handful of individuals have been prosecuted for serious violations of human rights in the last four decades.

- Integrate human rights principles in the peace process, and include in the peace talks agenda, both with the MILF and the NPA, provisions on mutual cooperation on human rights protection, and timely and impartial investigations on credible allegations of human rights and IHL violations committed in the context of the armed conflicts.

- Review Oplan Bantay Laya 2 and other counterinsurgency policies, with input from the CHR, to ensure that all counterinsurgency plans/policies comply with International Humanitarian Law and not infringe on the human rights of all peoples.

- Exercise full control and accountability over all government-backed paramilitary groups/force multipliers, particularly the CAFGU, Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary (SCAA), CVO, police auxiliaries; and establish operational guidelines, a clear chain of command and an accountability mechanism for all of them. Clearly define the different functions and limitations of these units. Also look into the possibility of disbanding such groups.

- Establish a truth-telling commission 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



Photo: JM VILLERO

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 UN 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 restituted 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/communities 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.

- Insitute 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 servicing (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 priority 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 de-bureaucratize 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:*
 - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
 - Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*
 - Committee on the Rights of the Child*
 - Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*
 - Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*
 - 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.

MALAKING USAPIN ang *computerization* ng halalang isasagawa ngayong Mayo 10, 2010. Sa unang pagkakat-aon, magiging “fully automated” na ang pagboto. Mahigit P11 bilyon ang itinalaga ng pamahalaan para sa *automation* ng botohan. Kinausap ng *HR Forum* si Ramon Casiple, isang *political analyst*, tungkol dito.

Konsepto ng ‘automation’ ng eleksyon

Unang-una, dapat ihiwalay ang konsepto ng ‘computerization’ doon sa usapin ng ‘modernization.’ Ang konsepto ng ‘computerization’ o ‘automation’ ay nanggaling doon sa pagkilala na yung manwal na sistema ay hindi na ganun ka-*reliable* at nagagamit sa mga dayaan sa mga naunang eleksyon. Kaya nga



SIMBAHANG LINGKOD NG BAYAN



AUTOMATED NA



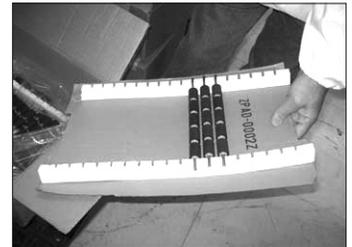
SIMBAHANG LINGKOD NG BAYAN

noong 1993, nagkaroon ng pag-aaral ang COMELEC [Commission on Elections] upang tingnan ang posibilidad ng ‘automation.’

Base sa pag-aaral na ito, nagkaroon ng rekomendasyon sa Kongreso na magpasa nga ng isang *Automation Law*. Major shift ito; malaking pagbabago, at lumabas ang batas na yan noong 1997.

Pagka-antala sa implementasyon

Kaya lang wala nang oras para ipatupad ito noong 1998 election at noong 2001, 2004. Noong 2007, noong nagkaroon ng *amendment* sa batas, hindi rin naipatupad dahil nga sa na-*delay* din nang na-*delay* ang usapan diyang, na sa tingin ko ay sadya namang *dinelay*. Hanggang sa ngayon lang nakapag-



WWW.COMELEC.GOV.PH

plano ang COMELEC nang mas matagal-tagal. Pero gayundin, inabot din ang kadulu-duluhan ng kanyang *timeline*. Nandiyan pa naman ang *automation* sa *schedule*, pero yung mga reserbang oras ay halos wala na.

Proseso at bentahe ng ‘automation’

Ang dahilan talaga dito ay yung pagbigay ng malaking [pansin] sa mga dayaan nung mga naunang manwal [na eleksyon]. Kaya nagkaroon ng desisyon na *i-automate*. Kaya ang unang-unang dahilan, napakalaking bahagi ng proseso ay gagamitan ng makina at walang tao na makikialam, lalo na sa *counting*, *canvassing stages*. Ang pangalawa, mapabilis ang proseso. Yung dati mong *counting* na inaabot ng isang linggo, dalawang linggo, ay matatapos



JAY AZUCENA

at the most ng 2 araw. Ngayong 2010 na halalan, may dagdag pa na bentahe. Bago yung sistema, lahat tayo maninibago, pati yung mga mandaraya. Hindi naman *automation* siyempre ang solusyon sa dayaan, pero mas mapapahirap yung paggawa ng mga dayaan sa *automation* kaysa sa manwal.

Kahandaan ng COMELEC

Sa tingin ko handa na [ang COMELEC]. Ang *bottom line* diyan, handa na. Ang mga *concern* kasi, halimbawa sa teknikal. Yung usapin ng komunikasyon, [kuryente], ay *inherent* doon sa *design* mismo ng makina. Una, de-bateria yun. Kung mawalan man ng [kury-

Ang automation ay hindi isang solusyon sa dayaan. Ang solusyon sa dayaan ay yung pagbabantay ng mga tao sa eleksyon.

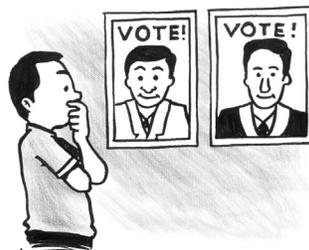
ente], meron itong 12 oras na *battery life*, yung makina. Kahit sa liblib na mga lugar, puwedeng gamitin. Kahit na purong de-bateria ang gamitin mo. Ngayon kung usapin na *remote* na lugar, malayo, ang *main communication* na gagamitin dito ay mga *cell sites*. Kung saan may abot ang *cellphone*, ay aabot din yung koneksyon sa mga makina patungo sa tinatawag na *central server*. Doon sa lugar na di makakaabot ang *cellphone*, ang solusyon naman dito ay *satellite communication* na aabot naman sa lahat ng parte ng bansa. So walang nakikita ditong problema kaugnay ng mabilis na pagpapadala ng mga resulta ng eleksyon.

Problemang teknikal

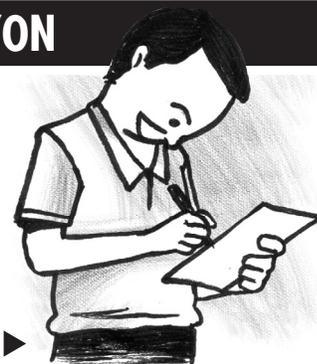
Sa teknikal, wala masyadong problema. Yung sinasabi nila ang COMELEC ay walang kakayanan sa teknikal. Hindi naman sa wala. Meron na siyang IT Department, *in the*

HALALAN 2010: ISANG GABAY

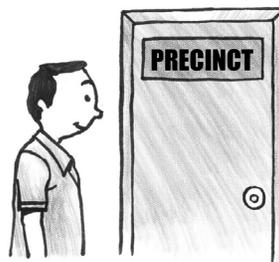
BAGO ANG ELEKSYON



1. Kilalanin ang mga kandidato. Suriin ang kanilang mga plataporma.



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



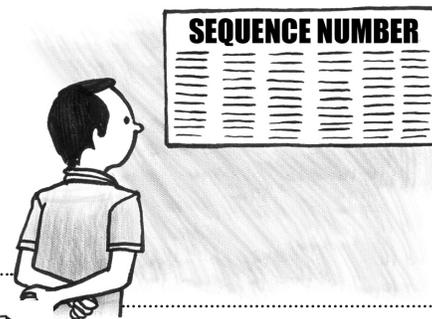
3. Isang araw bago ang halalan, puntahan ang iyong presinto at tiyaking nasa listahan ng *registered voters* ang iyong pangalan.

SA ARAW NG ELEKSYON

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

PAALALA: panatilihin 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. Makinig ng mabuti sa mga panuntunang ibibigay ng BEI tungkol sa tamang *pag-fill out* ng balota.



JAY AZUCENA

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 direktang magpapatupad sa implementasyon ng *automated system*. Sila ang may dala dito ng teknolohiya, magbibigay ng *training* sa paggamit nyan, kasama ang DOST natin.

Ang nakikita ko pang malaking may papel dito ay yung *Advisory Council*, kasi *by law*, tinayo ang *Advisory Council* ng COMELEC kaugnay ng *automation*. So yun ang *side* ng *automated technology*. Malaki ang papel dito ng *Advisory Council*.

Marami sa *Advisory Council* ay direktang nanggaling sa industriya ng *information technology*. Nandiyan ang DOST, ang *National Computer Center* at ang [CICT] mismo.

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 ipatutupad ngayon], kaya lang yung *variant* na tinatawag na *Precinct Optical Scan Technology (PCOS)*, ito yung kaiba sa ginamit halimbawa sa ARMM *last year* na OMR, pero ang *variation* niya ang tawag doon ay *Central Optical Scan*. Ito namang [PCOS], ang kaibahan, nasa presinto mismo yung makina so hindi mo na kailangang 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 maglalagay ng kanyang boto sa loob ng makina. Walang makakalapat sa kanya *except* kung hihingi siya ng tulong.



JAY AZUCENA

Ang malaking problema

Ang pinakamalaking problema naming nakikita ay mga batikos. Kasi, hindi pa nga naman napapatunayan itong mga makina, sangkatutak na ang mga batikos na inaabot at lahat ay nagka-cast 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 malaki yung nakataya dito, yung mga dating gawain ng mga mandaraya ay hindi na magagawa ngayon, kung maipapatupad yang *automated system*. So nandun ang mga *attempt* na ihinto ito para bumalik sa manwal.

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 ganun, 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 lumitaw 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. Pangalawa, yung *technical requirement*. Yung makina nga daw ay hindi nakakapasa sa *error rate* na *required* ng COMELEC at saka gumagamit ng mga programa na puwedeng *ma-hack*, mapasok o maddiskaril.

Pero yung *intent* ng mga nagpetisyon na ihinto ang implementasyon ng *automation* ay hindi nagkatotoo. *Actually*, hindi lang yun, may iba pang grupo na nag-a-*attempt* ihinto o isabotahe yung *automation*.

Sa tingin ko, ihinto muna yung kanilang *criticism*, kasi nandiyan na, *ini-implement* na natin. *Counter-productive* na

yung kanilang *criticism*. Bantayan natin ang proseso. Yun naman *from the start* ang posisyon ng CER, na huwag na tayong magtalo-talo dito. Kahit nagdududa ka, kung tinitingnan mo ang interes ng sambayanan, ang dapat na postura mo na dito ay tumulong at bantayan. Sa parte ng CER, ganyan ang ginagawa namin. Nagkakaroon kami ng plano na bantayan sa loob yan, may *access* kami sa makina, sa programa at sa lahat ng iskedyl ng proseso sa pagimplementa. *At the same time* sa labas ang [CER] ay may sariling kampanya, *Bantay Election 2010*, na magmo-monitor ng buong proseso ng eleksyon. Isang buong taon yan, hanggang June 30 [2010].

Electoral reform na sinusulong ng CER

Mahabang listahan yan. Dalawa siguro yung kategorya. Una, maayos ang sistema ng eleksyon, gawin itong *credible, fair and free election according to International Standard*. Pangalawa, magbukas pa ng pinto para sa maraming mamamayan natin na hindi nakakapagpartisipa sa eleksyon o kaya ay hindi nakikita ang kahalagahan nito sa kanilang buhay. So, dalawa din yung kategorya ng pagkilos. Pagdating sa batas halimbawa, may mga batas tayo o pagbabago o *amendment* sa batas, pinapatanggap sa Kongreso.

Isa halimbawa yung *Political Party Reform Bill*. Ito ang napakahalaga sa buong usapin ng reporma sa eleksyon. Ito yung mag-se-set ng *rules of the game* – ng pagtayo ng partido, at yung *behavior* ng mga partido. Yung pagkampanya ng partido, halimbawa, yung *overspending, transparency* sa mga *contributor, pag-prohibit* ng paglipat-lipat ng partido. Maiiwasan mo rito yung sakit ng sistema na *overspending*. Hindi lang *overspending* at mahigpit na pagbantay sa *campaign financing*, pero yun mismong *prevention* ng *vote buying, pag-lesser* ng *personality oriented politics*, pagpalakas ng konsepto at sistema ng *political party*.

Nandyang din siyempre yung

amendment sa *Absentee Voting Act*, pagpasa ng *local electoral representation*. Itong mga batas ay magpapalaki o magpapalpad ng partisipasyon ng mga sektor, lalo na ng *grassroots sector* sa pulitika ng bansa. Kaugnay ng *Omibus Election Code*, maraming listahan yan ng mga pagbabago, pagtataas ng *penalty* halimbawa sa *election violence* - from 6 months to a year gawing 6 years to 12 years. I-advance ang eleksyon sa ARMM ng 2 linggo, para hindi magamit ang ARMM sa dayaan. 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 mahikayat din natin yung maraming mamamayan na sumama sa eleksyon.

'Automation' at karapatang pantao

[Ang] karapatang pinag-uusapan dito ay direktang may kaugnayan sa eleksyon - una ay yung *right of suffrage*, yung karapatan ng tao na piliin kung sino ang lider niya, at kadikit niyan ay yung karapatan niyang ma-elect din bilang lider. At pangalawang karapatan, ay yung karapatang magpartisipa sa gobyerno. Kaya mas malawak yun, kasi hindi lamang eleksyon yun, pati pagkatapos ng eleksyon. Dapat may karapatan ang mamamayan na makikipag-ugnayan sa kanyang gobyerno. Itong dalawang usaping ito ay nakasalang sa bawat eleksyon. Pero sa halalang 2010, napakalaki ng *impact* ng *automation* dito sa mga karapatang ito.

Noong 2004 *presidential election* ay naging kwestiyunable sa marami. Sa *automation*, *hopefully*, mabawasan, kung di man matanggal yung mga dayaan at maibalik ang tiwala ng mga tao sa proseso sa pamamagitan ng pagseguro ng mabilis at *accurate* na bilangan. Yun ang importante. Ganundin, tingin namin, mahalaga din yung direktang partisipasyon ng mga tao, hindi lamang bilang botante, pero yung pagbabantay din ng boto. Yun, katuwang yun na

usapin sa *automation*. Mas mahalaga pa nga siguro yun. Kasi itong pagbabantay ng mga tao, ito *directly* ang makakaharap ng mga mandaraya. Mahihirapan silang makapandaya kasi nagbabantay ang mamamayan dito.

Direktang pakikisangkot ng mga tao

Ang *automation* ay hindi isang solusyon sa dayaan. Ang solusyon sa dayaan ay yung pagbabantay ng mga tao sa eleksyon. Proseso ito ng mga tao, hindi ito proseso ng gobyerno. Ito yung proseso na kung saan pinapaabot at pinapaalam ng mga tao ang kanilang suhestyon kung sino ang mamumuno sa kanila. Kaya napakahalaga ng proseso na ito na ang tanging makaka-garantiya ng maayos na eleksyon ay ang mga tao mismo.

So, napakahalaga dito, hindi pa siguro ang *automation*. Kasi ang *automation* ay nagdudulot lamang ng mabilis, *accurate* na bilangan, kaya pa ring pakialaman ng tao yan. Kaya kung di mo babantayan, puwede pa rin magamit yan na pandaya. Pero alalahanin natin na ang pinanggagalingan natin ay isang sistema na wala nang tiwala ang mga tao sa manwal na bilangan. Kaya yung mga nag-a-*argue* pa diyan na dapat mag-manwal pa rin tayo, bawat presinto ay may kinakalaban diyan na kasaysayan. At ito ay yung kasaysayan ng dayaan na nagsisimula sa presinto. Walang sistema na hindi na tinamaan *in the past* ng ganyang klaseng pagdududa. Kaya nasa ating lahat na magkaroon ng pagbabantay. Okey lang yung magduda, 'wag lang gawin yung duda na dahilan para huminto yung *automation*. Yun ang tingin kong ginagawa ng ilan diyan - na sa kanilang pagdududa ay gumagawa na sila ng mga pagkilos na walang basehan at ang epekto *actually* ay mahinto ang pag-implementa ng *automation*.

Si Mon Casiple ay Executive Director ng Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER) at Chairperson ng Consortium on Electoral Reforms (CER).

3. Kunin ang balota at special marker na ibibigay ng BEI.

Tiyakin na malinis at walang sulat o marka ang balota.



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

- Tiyaking na-shade nang buo ang bilog.
- Iwasan ang tinatawag na 'hesitation marks', tulad ng X, ?, *, tuldok, tsek, atbp.
- Hindi pwedeng magbura.
- Huwag maglagay ng anumang marka sa balota, maliban sa pag-shade sa akmang bilog, para hindi i-reject ng counting machine ang iyong balota.



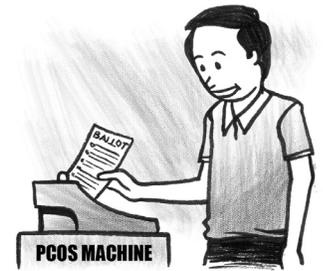
sa pag-shade sa akmang bilog, para hindi i-reject ng counting machine ang iyong balota.

• Ingtang hindi mapunit, mapilas, matupi, malukot, magusot o mabasa ang balota.

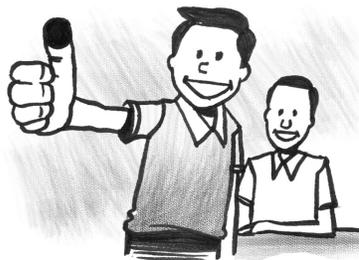
• Huwag mag-*overvote* (pag-shade o pagpili ng mga kandidatong hihigit sa bilang ng nakalaang pwesto para sa posisyon, tulad ng pagboto ng dalawang presidente o dalawang party-list).

5. Ipasok ang napunan na balota sa counting machine.

Maging maingat sa pag-feed ng balota. Huwag isalaksak o ipwersa ang balota sa counting machine. Hintayin ang kumpirmasyon ng iyong pagboto na makikita sa screen. Sisiguruhin din ng BEI ang kumpirmasyon ng iyong balota.



*Sakaling i-reject ng machine ang iyong balota: i-feed ulit ang balota sa machine. Pero kung hindi pa rin ito tanggapin ng machine, mamarkahan ng BEI Chair na "rejected" ang iyong balota at ilalagay niya ito sa isang sobre para sa mga rejected ballots. Hindi ka na bibigyan ng bagong balota.



6. Bumalik sa BEI para sa paglalagay ng indelible ink sa iyong daliri (kanang hintuturo) at paglagay ng iyong thumb mark sa listahan ng botante.

Mga pinaghalawan:

<http://blogs.gmanews.tv/yourvox/>

<http://blogs.gmanews.tv/yourvox/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/how-to-vote-landscape.jpg>

http://politics.inquirer.net/images/voting_process.jpg <http://www.slb.ph>

CROSSING BARRIERS

■ By Dr. Faith Mesa

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-assortment” 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-assortment of four strains, one endemic to humans, one endemic to birds and two endemic to pigs. The lowly swine played host to the re-assortment 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.¹ In the Philippines, influenza is the 5th leading cause of overall morbidity, affecting 350,000 individuals in 2007.²

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.

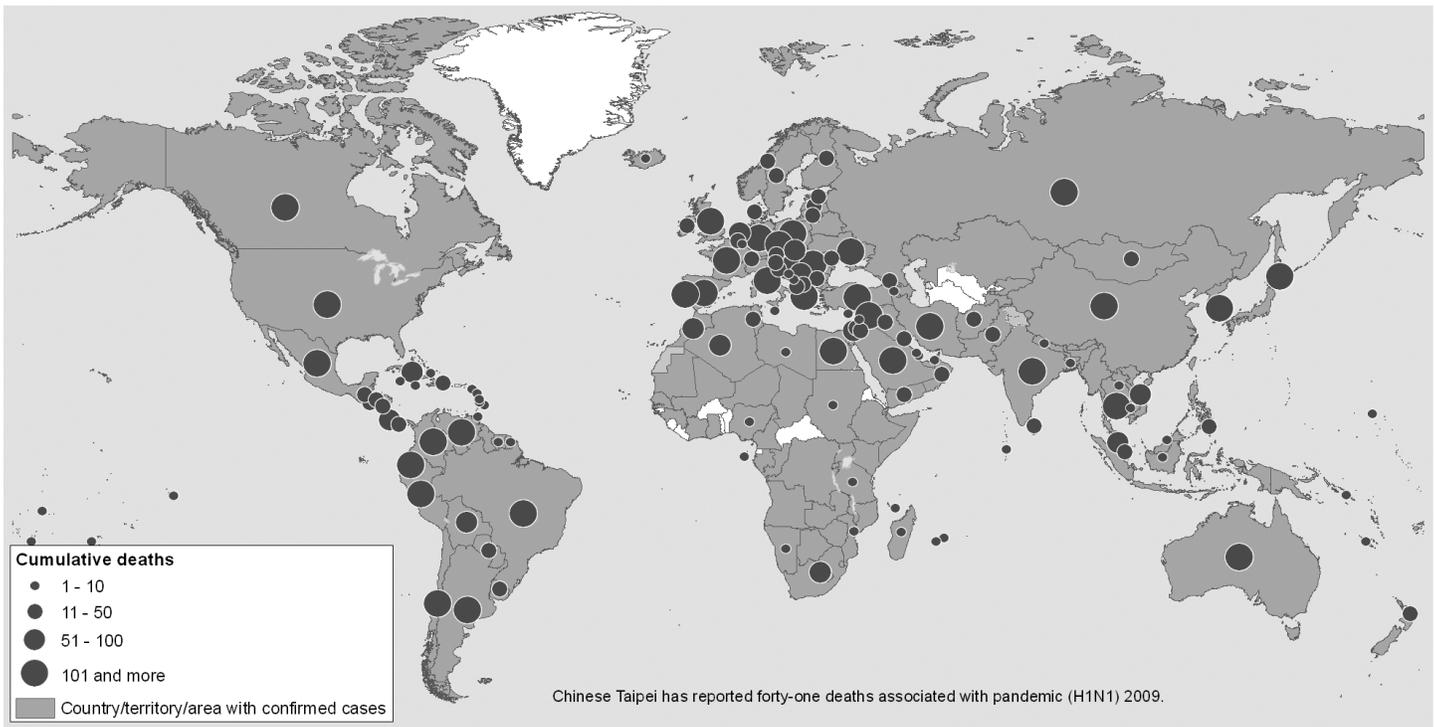
For pandemic influenza to occur, the novel virus has to be pathogenic and virulent to humans. It must like-

Complacency, not over-reaction, is the greatest danger posed by the flu pandemic.

..... wise 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,

JAY AZUCENA



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) World Health Organization



© WHO 2010. All rights reserved

Map produced: 22 April 2010, 09:30 GMT

Source: http://gamapservr.who.int/mapLibrary/Files/Maps/GlobalSubnationalMasterGradcolour_20100418_weekly.png

some of them fatal, were discovered in Mexico, in the U.S. and several other countries in the Northern Hemisphere.¹

The virus, which was easily transmissible via respiratory droplets, followed the international travel route and infected several countries in less than a month's time.

By June 2009, A (H1N1) was reported in 103 countries, with about 55, 867 confirmed cases and 238 deaths. WHO's latest monitoring update, dated April 23, 2010, reports that "more than 214 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including over 17,853 deaths." It must be noted that the reported number of fatal cases is an under representation of the actual number of deaths. According to WHO, "many deaths are never tested or recognized as influenza related."

In a highly globalized world,

viral spread came as an unfortunate package of international trade. With countries already reeling from the effects of the global economic crisis, limiting international travel to prevent viral infection was out of the question.

Emergency Preparedness: The Crux of the Matter

The first case in the Philippines was confirmed on May 21, 2009, about a month before the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic level Phase six³.

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), which had been designated by the Department of Health (DOH) in 2004 as the National Influenza Center, led the Influenza Surveillance Network, under DOH guidance. The project sought to establish an effective and timely influenza surveillance network in the country by collecting information on the circulating influenza strains

during inter-pandemic periods and providing influenza isolates to the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network for use in vaccine production and research. The network wanted to monitor, analyze and disseminate epidemiologic infor-

mation on influenza activity for public health intervention and case management while strengthening the health systems at the LGU level for sustainable surveillance.

As local health care practitioners watched the cases spread

NOT YET OVER

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/H1H1 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.⁴

At the emergency department, we were overwhelmed by the sheer number of consultations for fever, cough and colds. The RITM 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."⁶ 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, Constanca, MD, unpublished lecture, June 2009 Maersk Global Service Center
- 2 National Statistics Office, 2009 Report
- 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 Sanie, 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.



ALAMIN ANG INYONG MGA KARAPATAN

Ang Karapatan sa Halal (Voting Rights)

SIR, DI KA PWEDENG BUMOTO RITO. WALA KA PANG ISAT-KALAHATING TAONG NANIRAHAN DITO.



SINO ANG *may karapatang bumoto?* Ayon sa Saligang Batas (Artikulo V, Seksyon 1), ang karapatan sa halal ay maaaring 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 kagyat bago maghalalan.

May karapatan bang bumoto ang hindi nakakabasa at nakakasulat? Ayon din sa Saligang Batas, walang dapat ipataw na literasi, ari-arian o iba pang substantibong kinakailangan sa pagganap ng karapatan sa halal. Ibig sabihin, kahit hindi nakatuntong sa paaralan at hindi marunong bumasa at sumulat ay pwedeng bumoto. Hindi rin kailangang magkaroon ng kung anu-anong ari-arian o yaman upang gampanan ang karapatang ito.

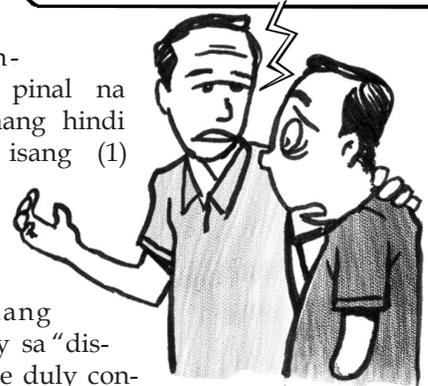
PWEDE KAYA AKONG BUMOTO? 'DI BA ISI-SHADE LANG NAMAN YUNG BILOG KATAPAT NG BINUBOTO?



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).

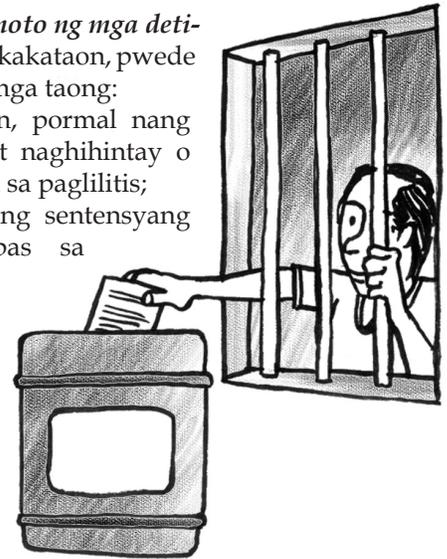
SORRY SIR, PERO INCAPABLE KA BUMOTO. SAKA DI KA NAMIN MAKUKUHANAN NG FINGERPRINTS.



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

- Nasa piitan, pormal nang nakasuhan at naghihintay o sumasailalim 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".



PUTTING AN END TO TORTURE

■ By Ellec Carlos

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 adherence 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
n o t



Photos: BALAY REHABILITATION CENTER, INC.



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 refining 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 dur-

ing 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.



Task Force Detainees of the Philippines

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

BALAY Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

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 being 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 po-



Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services, Inc.

sition. 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 (FIND) 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.

On November 10, 2009, President Gloria Arroyo signed Republic Act 9745 (the Anti-Torture Act of 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."



Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan

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:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/nation/view/20100313-258470/24000-detainees-expected-to-vote-in-May>

http://www.chr.gov.ph/MAIN%20PAGES/news/PS_2Mar2010_Voting.htm

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.

On March 19, hundreds of students at the state-run PUP walked out of their classrooms to denounce a proposal to increase the school's tuition by as much as 1,700%.

SOURCES:

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/pampanga/ched-no-increase-tuition-fees>

<http://www.mb.com.ph/node/249473/no-tuition-fee-hike-ched>

<http://bworldonline.com/main/content.php?id=8298>

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 Independenteng 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/PhilippinesWomSuff.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

LICENSURE 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

SCHOOL	REGION	2006		2007		AVE.	RANK
		PASSING %	RANK	PASSING %	RANK		
San Pedro College-Davao City	XI	80	19*	86	1	83	1
Far Eastern University-Manila	NCR	66	1	62	2	64	2
Our Lady of Fatima University-Valenzuela	NCR	61	2	57	3	59	3
Liceo De Cagayan University	X	58	50*	56	5	57	4
University of Perpetual Help System-Laguna	IV-A	55	59*	57	4	56	5
Our Lady of Fatima College-Q.C.	NCR	58	3	50	7	54	6
Brokenshire College	XI	53	4	50	8	52	7
Southwestern University	VII	55	60*	48	10	52	7
University of Baguio	CAR	53	64*	49	9	51	9
Western Mindanao State University	IX	50	6	52	6	51	9

* 100 to 999 examinees only

LICENSURE 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

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

* 100 to 999 examinees only

FACTS AND FIGURES



Photo: Task Force Detainees of the Philippines

LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR NURSES BEST PERFORMING SCHOOLS, 2006-2007

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

SCHOOL	REGION	2006		2007		AVE.	RANK
		PASSING %	RANK	PASSING %	RANK		
Xavier University (Ateneo De Cagayan)	X	100	1	98	4	99	1
Saint Louis University	CAR	96	5	99	1	98	2
West Visayas State University-La paz	VI	97	3	98	3	98	2
Silliman University	VII	99	2	93	11	96	4
Saint Paul University-Iloilo	VI	92	7	97	7	95	5
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila	NCR	97	4	91	14	94	6
University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Mem Medical Ctr	NCR	91	8	97	6	94	6
Trinity University of Asia (Trinity-Q.C.)	NCR	88	12	99	2	94	8
University of Santo Tomas	NCR	89	11	97	5	93	9
Cebu Doctors University (Cebu Doctors College)	VII	91	9	91	16	91	10

LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR NURSES WORST PERFORMING SCHOOLS, 2006-2007

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

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

FACTS AND FIGURES

SCHOOL	REGION	2006		2007		AVE.	RANK
		PASSING %	RANK	PASSING %	RANK		
Carthel Science Educational Foundation, Inc. (Olra)	III	24	17**	18	10	21	16
University of Perpetual Help System-GMA	IV-A	no record		21	19	21	16
Immaculate Conception College-Albay	V	24	17	19	12	22	18
Tecaro College Foundation, Inc.	XI	23	51**	21	17	22	18
University of Northeastern Philippines	V	19	7	25	32	22	18
Las Piñas College	NCR	19	9	26	34	23	21
Martinez Memorial College	NCR	26	25	19	13	23	21

Golden Gate Colleges	IV-A	23	15	23	24	23	21
Polytechnic College of Davao del Sur	XI	22	14	24	28	23	21
Abra Valley College	CAR	21	13**	27	30	24	25
Colegio de Kidapawan (N. Cotabato I.T.)	XII	24	16	23	23	24	25
Emilio Aguinaldo College-Dasmariñas	IV-A	26	24	22	22	24	25
Panfacific University North Philippines (Pang. Cst)	I	25	20	23	26	24	25
Saint Mary's College of San Juan	NCR	no record		24	27	24	25
M.V. Gallego Foundation Colleges	III	24	19	25	30	25	30

* less than 10 examinees

** 10 to 99 examinees only

*** 1000 or more examinees

Source of Tables: "The best schools; the worst schools", based on Compilation of Statistics on the Performance of Schools in Various Licensure Examinations, 2006-2007, Professional Regulation Commission http://www.nscb.gov.ph/headlines/StatsSpeak/2010/041210_rav_schools.asp



ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS
INFORMATION CENTER (PHILRIGHTS)
53-B Maliksi St. Barangay Pinyahan
1100 Quezon City

BUSINESS MAIL ENTERED
AS 3RD CLASS (PM)
Permit No.: PM-07-03-NCR