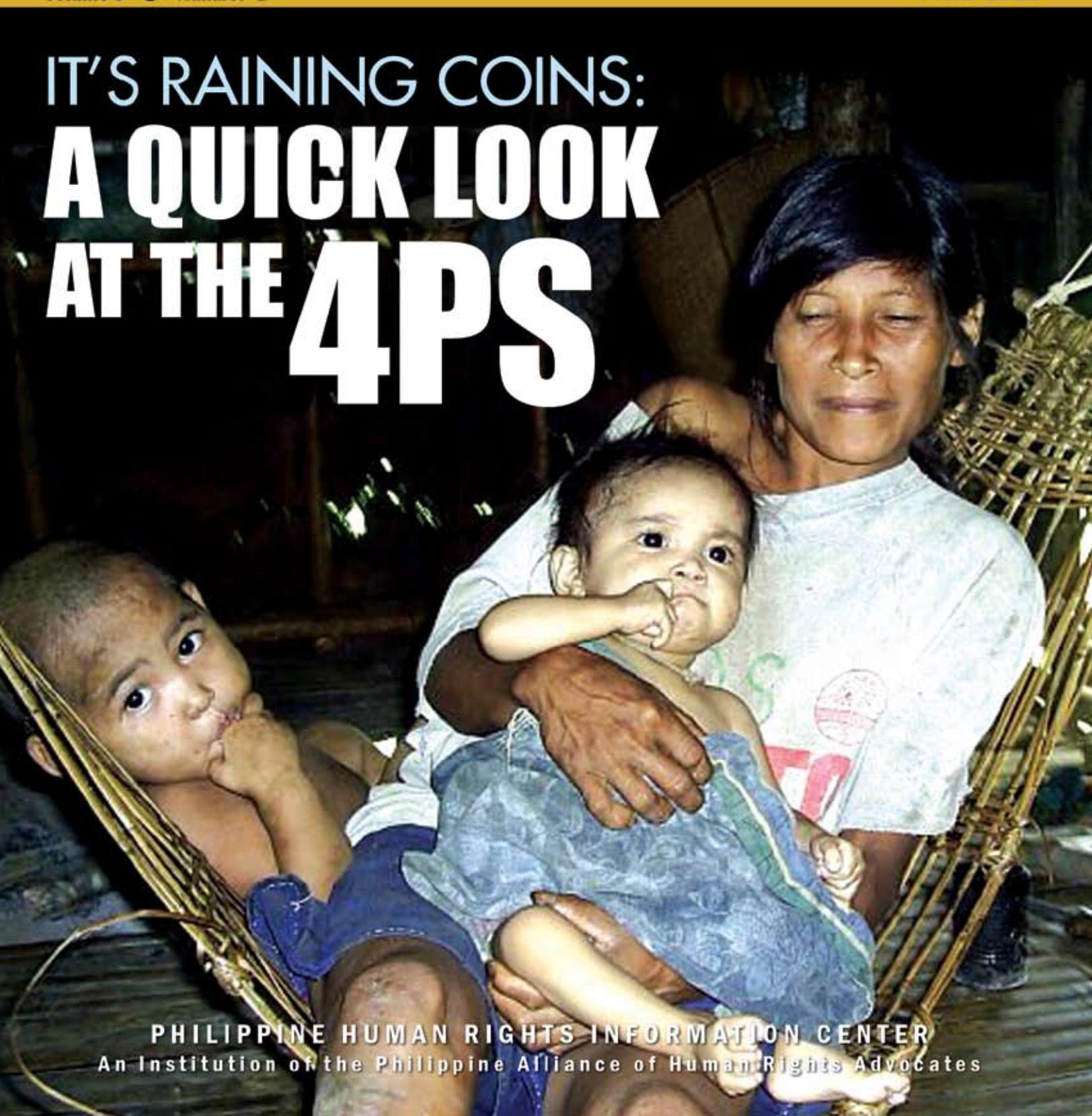


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IT'S RAINING COINS:
**A QUICK LOOK
AT THE 4PS**



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

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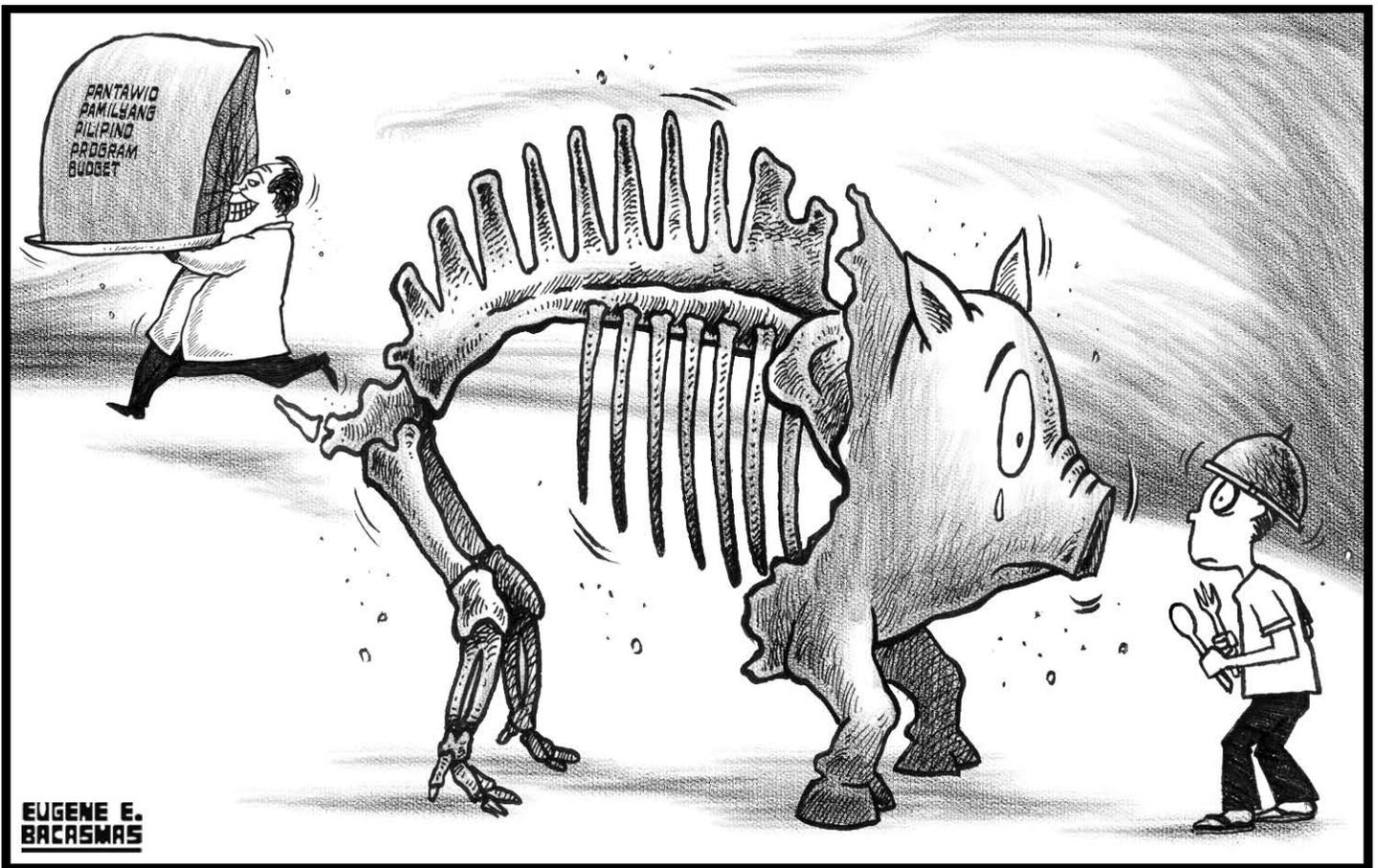
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■ EDITORIAL

Maitatawid nga ba?

ITO ANG malaking katanungang hinaharap ng Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (o 4 Ps), ang programa ng pamahalaan na layuning pababain ang bilang ng mga mahihirap sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng salaping makakatulong upang matugunan ang ilang pangangailangan. Ang layon ay mamuhunan sa tinatawag na 'human capital', na ang pangunahing tutok ay mapabuti ang kalusugan, nutrisyon at edukasyon, partikular ng mga kabataang miyembro ng pamilya na nasa edad 0-14.

Kapalit ng ayuda, ang mga pamilyang tatanggap ng salapi ay may mga dapat tuparin. Kabilang dito ang regular na pagpapa-check-up at bakuna para sa mga batang edad 0-5; pagpasok sa day-care o pre-school ng mga batang edad 3-5; pagpasok sa paaralan ng mga batang edad 6-14; deworming ng mga batang edad 6-14; pagdalo ng mga magulang sa mga responsible parenthood na pagpupulong; pre- at post-natal care para sa mga nanay.

Ang konsepto ng programang ito ay kinopya sa diumano'y matagumpay na programang conditional cash transfer (CCT) na ipinatupad ng ilang bansa sa Katimugang Amerika at Aprika. Sinimulan ito noong administrasyon ni Gloria Arroyo at ngayo'y ipinagpatuloy at pinalawak pa ng administrasyong Aquino. Nang simulan ito noong 2008,

may 900,000 pamilya ang nakatalang benepisyaryo; nitong 2011, target ng administrasyong Aquino na mabigyan ng salapi ang humigit-kumulang 2.3 milyong pamilya.

Malaking salapi ang gagastusin ng gobyerno para sa programang ito. Para sa 2011, naglaan ng ₱21.19 bilyon para sa 4 Ps, at kamakailan lamang ay humingi ang Malakanyang ng dagdag na ₱2.2 bilyon, na siya namang ikinadismaya ng ilang mambabatas na nababahala sa sinasabing kakulangan ng transparency sa pamamahala ng 4 Ps.

Nitong mga nakaraang buwan, marami nang reklamo ng diumano'y katiwaliang nangyayari sa 4 Ps, kabilang na dito ang kwestionableng pagtukoy ng mga benepisyaryo. May mga balitang sa ilang lugar, nahahaluan ng pulitika ang pagpipili ng mga masasali sa programa.

Hindi lang ang posibleng korapsyon ang nakakabahala dito sa programang ito. Sa pananaw ng ilang ekonomista at mga NGO, hindi masasagot ng buwanang ayuda ang problema ng paghihikahos ng milyun-milyong pamilya sa Pilipinas, kung walang mga kaakibat na programang sasagot sa pangmatalalang pangangailangan tulad ng sapat at regular na trabaho, lalo na't ang perang ginugugol sa 4 Ps ay inutang ng gobyerno sa mga internasyunal na institusyong pinansyal, at sa huli't huli ay utang na papasanin ng buong bayan.

IT'S RAINING COINS: A QUICK LOOK AT THE 4Ps



JMVillero

■ By Joy Anne Icayan

BEFORE BEING part of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program, Aling Marci, a resident of Navotas, had a difficult time providing for all the needs of her family. To earn a few pesos, Aling Marci would repack chlorine which she sold around her neighborhood every morning. The money she earned provided for her younger children's allowance for their afternoon classes. Her husband works as a teacher. It was not a very comfortable life, she said. The eldest of their four children had to quit school because of financial difficulties.



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Today all her four children are in school, even the eldest one. Every three months, she gets an allowance of Php3300, P1100 for each month for the education and health needs of her two children in the 5-14 age bracket. She admits some of the money is used for the

welfare of the other children, such as the school needs of the eldest child and to supplement financing for the basic needs of the family.

Marci is the focal leader of 27 household-beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in Daang-Hari, Navotas. While leading and coordinating with these families is volunteer work, she gets to attend trainings provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which she says enhances her skills as a mother and as a woman. These trainings range from women's rights, to livelihood trainings and leadership seminars.

Lourdes is one of the women in Marci's group. She has three children, the youngest of which is two years old. Her



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husband works in construction and she stays at home to take care of the family. She says aside from the money, the program has increased her awareness of her children's needs. "*Kailangan pala, regular yung pagpapatimbang at pag-papa-checkup.*"

4Ps under Two Presidents

Marci and Lourdes were part of the 2008 Conditional Cash Transfer Program, back in the time of Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. In 2008 they were part of a survey which collected their demographic profiles. They did not know what the survey was for. Marci remembers that the whole neighborhood was surveyed, although some refused to be part of the survey. It was only a few weeks later when they were asked to go to the municipal hall and were given an orientation about being part of the CCT program.

Implemented in 2008 by the DSWD after a quick pilot study, the CCT program covers children 5-14 years old. Its goal is to provide for the immediate basic needs of the poorest families, and thus to invest in human capital in the long term by breaking the ongoing cycle of poverty in these communities. The program focuses on the health and education needs of children in these families. Subject to the compliance of



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conditions, household representatives receive a corresponding amount of money. Up to three children can be included in the program, with P500 given for health needs and P300 for educational needs. P1400 is the maximum amount a family can receive in a month.

Under this program, families are to ensure that children aged 6-14 have an 85% attendance in school and those aged 3-5 attend preschool, that children below 5 are given immunization and older children avail of deworming pills. Pregnant

women have to avail of maternal care.

Aside from this, household representatives, mostly mothers, are required to attend monthly Family Development Sessions where they are given seminars on women's rights, livelihood and others. This also becomes the venue for the household representatives to converse with DSWD social workers and voice out their concerns. Marci shared that they were also asked to sign

an agreement by the DSWD promising not to drink liquor or gamble.

According to Marci and Lourdes,



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there are separate monitoring teams in the school and health center to see whether children are complying with the requirements. Non-compliance in either health or education conditions would result in the withdrawal of corresponding cash assistance.

Pouring cash to the poor

President Aquino continued and expanded Arroyo's CCT program. With increased loans from the Asian Development Bank, DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman estimated that the 4Ps program would benefit some 2.3 M families by the end of 2011. From a budget of 10B in 2010, 23 billion was allotted for 2011. An additional 4B is allotted for trainings of implementers.

The increased budget allotted for the program has been criticized by a lot of sectors, including NGOs, lawmakers and even from former president Arroyo. One of the strongest criticisms is that the program merely functions as a dole-out, giving short solutions to the poor while wreaking havoc on the long term with massive debt sourced from outside. Social Watch Philippines' study on 4Ps beneficiaries revealed that while the beneficiaries were grateful for cash grants, they

“The 21B dole-out offer[s] an empty promise of alleviating poverty [and] further contributes to the country’s worsening financial health.”

..... said that what would lift them from poverty would be access to decent and regular employment.

Ibon Foundation's position paper, "Conditional Cash Transfers and the Persistence of Poverty", stated that CCTs remain as dole-outs because families get cash unrelated to their labor. It is also discretionary and not sustainable in the long run, the think-tank said.

Seven representatives of the party-list groups Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Anakpawis, Alliance of Concerned Teachers and Kabataan released a joint press statement in October 2010 calling for the scrapping of the CCT program as it does little in enhancing the long-term social security of the Filipino people. The par-

ty-list representatives pointed out that "Not only does the 21 billion dole-out offer an empty promise of alleviating poverty, it further contributes to the country's worsening financial health with its added burden of multi-billion loans from international financial institutions."

What's in a word: containment vs. reduction

Walden Bello of Akbayan addressed the dole-out criticism, saying it reeks of middle-class insensitivity to the poor's plight. In his article, "The CCT Debate and the Coalition against the Poor"



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published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Bello further addressed criticisms of the CCT having only short-term benefits and hence incapable of solving the problem of poverty in the long run. Bello said the program is for poverty containment rather than poverty reduction.

Marci said she had heard of the dole-out sentiment from other people, but dismissed it by saying that they also have to work for the cash transfers. *"Hindi yun dole-out kasi may counterpart kami."* She said that they have to comply with the rules, such as regular check-up for children, minimal absences in school and attendance in monthly family development sessions. Household heads are likewise prohibited from gambling and drinking.

Concerned organizations headed by Bayan Muna have



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expressed fear of possible corruption in the 4Ps program. Corruption may come from the patronage system where favored politicians' areas are given precedence over the areas which are more in need. According to the group, the CCT program "strengthens the corrupt patronage system as politics will dictate

who gets access to these programs."

The parties questioning the implementation of the 4Ps program said that investment in social security institutions would be a more viable and empowering alternative to CCTs. This would mean giving a bigger chunk of the budget to public hospitals

and universities to fund better facilities and ensure quality medicines and services. SWP suggests using the funds for job generation. The Global Call to Action against Poverty wants a wider 4Ps program, one that would include provisions for livelihood.

There have also been calls for widening the scope of the target population for programs like 4Ps, to include, among others, the increasing number of out-of-school youths.

Something to tide them over

Marci is aware of the bad press surrounding the program. But she insists most of these are unfounded. She is aware that the money for beneficiaries can be misused, and even recounts an incident where a family went straight to Jollibee after withdrawing their cash assistance. However, for most, she says the 4Ps program is an extended lifeline. *"Mas nabibigay namin ngayon yung mga kailangan ng mga anak namin. Kaunting pera lamang iyon pero malaking tulong."*

The program has become beneficial not only to the families but also to the community. Marci and Lourdes said that they have noticed a gradual yet consistent change in their neighbors. Because they are no longer allowed to drink or gamble, it has become more quiet during the evenings, Lourdes says. She admits however, that this prohibition cannot be forced upon their husbands.

For Marci and Lourdes, the 4Ps program has significantly helped their families and they can only hope that the program will live out its five-year span. They are aware that it cannot directly pull them out of poverty. *"Lagi kong sinasabi sa mga pamilya, pantawid lang yan. Hindi yan lang ang dapat inasahan ninyo,"* Marci said. ■



Tracy Pabico

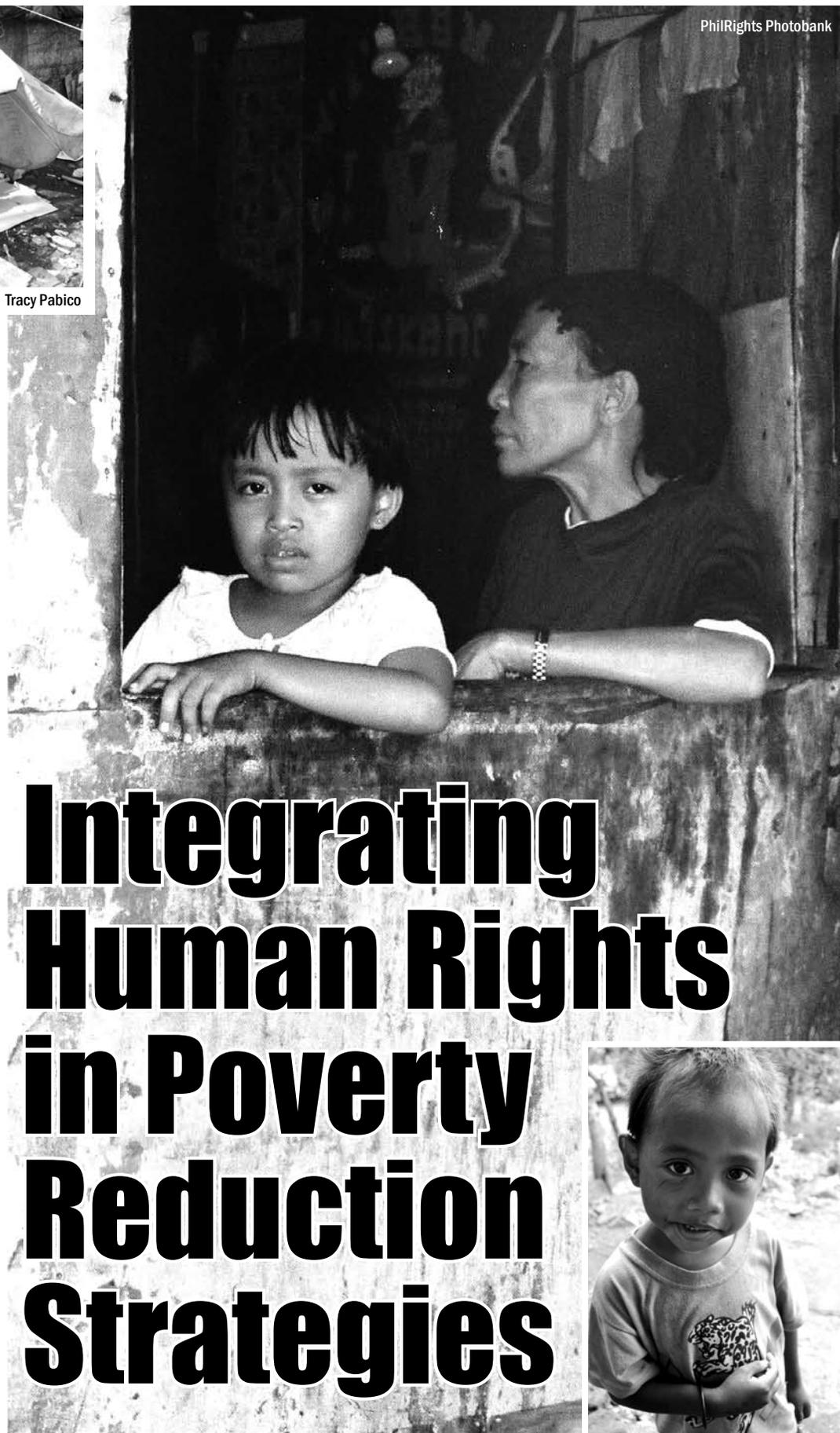
■ By **Mae Buenaventura**

Freedom from Debt Coalition

THERE IS an oft-repeated line from Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, describing poverty as the denial of human rights and poverty as the most serious form of human rights violation in the world today. Counting among South countries who are barely surviving the adverse impacts of various forms of so-called poverty reduction strategies (PRS), we cannot agree more strongly; we are witness daily to the many faces of poverty and a broad range of human rights violations.

By “poverty”, I use the OHCHR’s own holistic description of “a human condition characterized by deprivations below defined thresholds in multiple dimensions of human life that are important for well-being.”¹ Implicit here is the recognition that poverty is not only about income, but also about deprivations of the basic elements needed for a decent human life.

In fact, one would be hard pressed to separate what are clearly mutually reinforcing



Integrating Human Rights in Poverty Reduction Strategies



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situations and viciously turning cycles of impoverishment and unfulfilled human rights. In poverty, we find the denial of human rights, which in turn deepens the situation of poverty and intensifies and consequently multiplies human rights violations.

SAPping the economy

To learn from the experience of the South with poverty reduction strategies, we first have to look at their precursor, the structural adjustment programs (SAPs). Some may argue other factors, but there is no denying that South peoples sank deeper into poverty and deprivation after all the years under SAPs and their attendant policies. In the 70s, loans were aggressively peddled by international financial institutions and banks to what were then called Third World countries, which eventually became too debt-ridden and cash-strapped to meet loan



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payments. The ensuing debt crisis of the 80s enabled these institutions with their lending capacity to leverage far-reaching policy changes in the countries from which debt payments were being claimed. More loans were pushed to service outstanding obligations, loans that came with conditionalities in the form of structural adjustment programs or SAPs, targeted for a

In poverty, we find the denial of human rights, which in turn deepens the situation of poverty and intensifies and consequently multiplies human rights violations.

borrower-country's economic reconstruction and debt repayment.

SAPs compelled borrowing countries to implement, among others, monetary and financial belt-tightening, to sell state enterprises to private entities, deregularize industries and liberalize trade and financial markets. They prescribed cutbacks in government spending on health, education, water provision and other essential services. They favored resource extraction and export-oriented production to service global demands, putting food production and security at risk. They privileged foreign investment with risk-free business environments, reducing or removing labor standards and environmental regulations. They opened markets to unfair competition, eroding domestic production. Affirming these, the citizens' assessments conducted as part of a World Bank tripartite review pointed out the failure "to grasp or to even acknowledge the depth and breadth of problems that need to be addressed



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in its policy based lending... SAPs created and entrenched continuing cycles of impoverishment and inequality, and that the anticipated gains in efficiency, competitiveness, revenue and savings from Bank-Fund prescribed macro-economic policy prescriptions did not materialize."²

In 1999, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) introduced the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) and Policy Framework Papers with Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PSRP) as the new preconditions for loan and debt relief. Addressing the debt problem of Highly Indebted Poor Countries, this debt relief scheme seemed to suggest debt as a limited problem despite the fact that the debt problem in the majority of South countries has led to further underdevelopment and damage of national economies by global financial capital.

While PRSPs attempted to address criticisms over the SAPs' lack of democratic processes, their content and direction, terms and conditions remained essentially the same as SAPs. But did we really get out of SAPs? It turned out to be business-as-usual, with the PRSPs "simply delivering repackaged structural adjustment programmes... not delivering poverty-focused development plans."³ Other studies note that "while PRSPs stress the importance of social safety nets and poverty reduction, the prescribed macro-economic reforms to achieve them are 'undiscussed' and are indistinguishable from the previous macroeconomic frameworks that focused on achieving rapid growth via liberalization and privatization."⁴ These policies remain in place today despite a record of failure in realizing what they set out to accomplish - poverty reduction.



HR as a comprehensive normative frame for poverty-reduction strategies

Since the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948, human rights as a set of beliefs and aims has achieved wide levels of recognition and consensus globally. Its 30 articles are substantiated in various international treaties and regional human rights instruments, translated into national constitutions and domestic laws by many individual states. The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)⁵ constitute the International

Bill of Human Rights which, having been ratified by a majority of the 192 member states of the UN, forms part of and has the force of customary international law. The HR frame holds much potential for meeting the challenge towards reducing poverty.

The substance of Rights-Based Approaches

A key human rights element that poverty reduction strategies do not reflect as part and parcel of state obligations is the empowerment of the poor. Empowerment carries with it the concept of rights-claiming, which can only happen with the realization of each individual that he/she possesses rights and is entitled to the enjoyment of the same. Thus we lay claim to

safe, adequate and affordable water, for example, not only because it is a basic human need, but as a matter of right. This also implies claims-making from those who are duty-bound to provide whatever mechanisms, processes, infrastructure, and other resources necessary for the realization and enjoyment of such right. From a rights-based perspective, this responsibility primarily lies with the principal duty bearers - the government and its agencies - who are publicly mandated and legally obliged to muster the resources at their command to ensure that the claims of rights-holders are met.

Empowerment in relation to poverty as a multi-dimensional condition invokes the principle of indivisibility of



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human rights, or the notion that no human right can be fully realized without fully realizing all other human rights. While progressive realization recognizes limited resources, there are minimum obligations to which duty-bearers are bound. Empowerment requires steps to be taken both immediately and over the long term towards changing systems and structures, such that the poor are assured of access to and control over resources, which include economic assets as well as opportunities for education, health and other requisites for development and well-being.

Integral in human rights approaches is the concern not only with equality in opportunity, but also equality in the enjoyment of results, hence



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the need for social justice and equity to be part of major development objectives as well. One of the non-negotiables of a human rights frame is the attention to vulnerable groups. This is not simply a mechanical focus but one based on the recognition that prioritizing the poor, the marginalized, those excluded and made invisible by discrimination, contributes to correcting a situation of unfairness or injustice. It is also a view proceeding from causal analysis of this situation of human rights denial and poverty, for which reason, the systems and structures that foster them must be changed.

Rights-based processes

Accountability and transparency are common buzzwords in many development texts, including poverty reduction strategies. But these terms are intended in a particular way by human rights approaches. The nature of legal obligations for the respect, protection and fulfillment of rights lies squarely at the doorstep of the government and policy-makers. As such, accountability is exacted from the government and attendant duty bearers for acts of omis-

sion and/or commission in securing the enjoyment of rights especially of the poor and marginalized. The implementation of poverty reduction strategies must thus be read and assessed as responses of duty-bearers to their legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, as the nature of obligations are defined from a human rights perspective.

Accountability must be sought as well from those who pushed SAPs in the 70s and 80s and continued essentially to do so with poverty reduction strategies - and here lies a huge challenge to bringing human rights into PRS. How do we hold accountable non-state entities such as international financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF, multinational companies and their local counterparts who have been instrumental in promoting and compelling South governments to undertake PRS in exchange for more loans and debt relief? Irresponsibly and aggressively pushed by creditors, many of the loans of the 70s lined the pockets of dictators, who then passed on the burden of repayment to public coffers. As in the case of the Marcos dictatorship, such loans fu-

eled the military in their campaigns of political repression, and funded projects dislocating communities and irreversibly damaging environmental resources. The odious and onerous character of these loans - which we deem illegitimate - is incontrovertible, but it is a burdensome yoke that we continue to bear in the servicing of debts.

The incongruity of holding on to the traditional human rights bias for concerning itself with state accountability alone is captured by the thought that "[I]f you are going to be violated, pray it is by someone who looks like government" (McKinnon, quoted by Clapham). I think that in this respect, the human rights regime, while focused on seeking accountability from state actors, has evolved to reflect current realities, with some core international human rights instruments recognizing the harm non-state actors can inflict and protections needed in this respect. Thus, under international human rights law, non-state actors should not be shielded by their being outside the system of ratification. "[I]nternational human rights obligations can fall on states, individuals, and non-state actors. Different jurisdictions may or may not be able to enforce these obligations, but the obligations exist just the same."⁶ The withdrawal of public subsidies from social services has been one of the most harmful impacts of poverty reduction strategies. In the case of public health services, the obligation to respect means that duty bearers cannot infringe on people's enjoyment of the right to basic health services; thus, budget cuts in health that lead to the closure of public health facilities would constitute such an infringement. The obligation to protect means that the state must intervene when

the right to health is violated, and therefore, when the charging of user fees prevents poor people from accessing health services, state action is required. The obligation to fulfill obviously means that duty bearers should ensure the institutional and financial elements needed for the right to health to be enjoyed by the poor, hence budgets should be secured for the continued and improved delivery of public health services that especially prioritize those who are economically disprivileged and are politically marginalized or excluded.

The same is true in the case of water privatization. Part of what the Freedom from Debt Coalition opposes in the poverty reduction strategies of international financial institutions is the premium accorded to privatization as a way for government to raise revenues and keep up with their debt payments. What happens when such water services are privatized is that a resource critical to all life is made contingent on the capacity to pay. Not only is government, as a duty bearer, transgressing its obligation to respect and protect human rights. It is in fact violating the principle of non-retrogression, another non-negotiable precept of a human rights based perspective, for instead of progressively moving towards realizing people's enjoyment of their right to water, it is promoting a policy that is retrogressive and has proven to jeopardize the same. It is unacceptable from a human rights lens to argue for retrogression in one area to legitimize progress in another.

I conclude by stressing the element of participation, another well-established element of human rights approaches. The poverty reduction strategies contain participation as one of its pillars; they express-



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ly set out to address the lack of participation and country ownership observed in the period of SAP implementation. As implemented, the 'participatory approach' of the PRSP was limited to a few consultations with civil society organizations and not substantive discussions on poverty and their causes.

Participation in a human rights frame connects with the other rights, including civil and political rights. As the OHCHR's own guidelines assert, participation "is only possible when a wide range of human rights, including civil and political rights, is respected. The fulfillment of these rights is, therefore, an essential precondition for an ethically defensible evaluation of poverty. As such, all these rights have evaluative relevance to poverty, even if they do not form part of the

definition of poverty."⁷

Meeting a Great Challenge to Human Rights

If debt relief and extending more debts continue to be the overriding concern and motivation of poverty reduction strategies, we will continue to see countries like the Philippines where debt payments are prioritized in law and in fact, over any other public need, despite desperate needs for food, housing, jobs, and other standard minimums for a decent human life. We can hope for a correction of such skewed perceptions through an explicit application of a human rights framework to address poverty.

Let me close by quoting Louise Arbor, also a former High Commissioner of Human Rights, who put it, that "[p]overty is the gravest human rights challenge facing the

world today." Explicitly recognizing and using the normative framework that core international instruments provide as the analytical and methodological base in developing rights-based poverty-reduction strategies is a crucial first step towards meeting this challenge, and a move in the direction of what we really ultimately desire, of not only reducing, but ending poverty.

This paper was presented at the Asia-Pacific Consultation of the UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and Human Rights, January 31- February 1, 2011, Doha

¹ Sakiko Fukuda-Parr. Human Rights and National Poverty Strategies. The Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut. Working Paper 2. April 2007.

² Global Network for Justice, Vol. 2, No. 2. August 2003 citing the findings of the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative Network

³ "PRSPs just PR say civil society groups." Bretton Woods Project Update #23, June/July 2001. <<http://www.globalissues.org/article/3/structural-adjustment-a-major-cause-of-poverty>>

⁴ Walden Bello and Shalmali Guttal. "The Wolfensohn Era at the World Bank: An Era of Contradictions." February 2005. <http://en.parc-jp.org/global_economy/ibrd/contribution-of-walden-bello-to-the-forum-on-ibrd>.

⁵ ICCPR and ICESCR, 167 and 160 parties respectively as of January 2011 (192 UN members)

⁶ Andrew Clapham. "Human Rights and the Obligations of Non-State Actors." Oxford University Press, NY. 2006.

⁷ OHCHR. Poverty Reduction and Human Rights: A Conceptual Framework. United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2004.



• ALAMIN ANG INYONG MGA • KARAPATAN

Ang Sentensyang Kamatayan (Death Penalty) sa Pilipinas

KAMAKAILAN LANG, umugong na naman ang usapin tungkol sa parusang kamatayan, pagkatapos sumambulat sa balita ang ilang karumal-dumal na krimen.

Ang parusang bitay ay kailanman hindi nagsilbi sa kapakanan ng hustisya; bagkus, ito'y ginamit upang kitlin ang mga kalayaan at karapatan ng mamamayang Pilipino. Mula sa panahon ng mga Kastila hanggang sa panahon ni Marcos, ang parusang bitay ay ginamit sa politikal at ekonomikong paniniil.



Panahon ng Kastila (1521-1898)

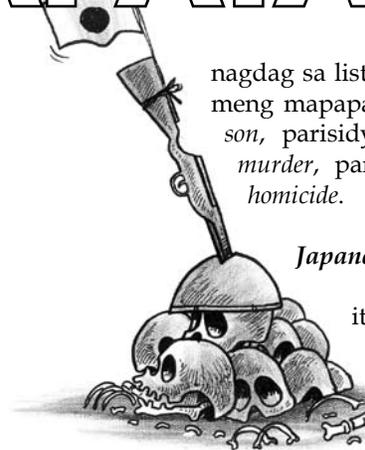
- Ilan sa paraan ng parusang kamatayan na ginamit ng mga Kastila ay pagsunog, pagpugot ng ulo, paglunod, garote, pagbitay, pagbaril, pagsaksak at iba pa.

- Sa Codigo Penal ng 1848, ipinataw ang sentensyang kamatayan sa mga Pilipinong tutol sa pamamahala ng mga Kastila.

Panahon ng Amerikano (1898-1934)

- Ginamit ang parusang bitay sa kampanyang "pacification" ng mga Amerikano at upang supilin ang mithiing pagsasarili ng mga Pilipino. Ipinasa ang Sedition Law, Brigandage Act, Reconcentration Act at Flag Law upang pagtibayin ang marahas na parusa, kabilang na ang *death penalty*, sa mga makabayang Pilipino.

- Nang rebisahin ang Codigo Penal noong 1932, idi-



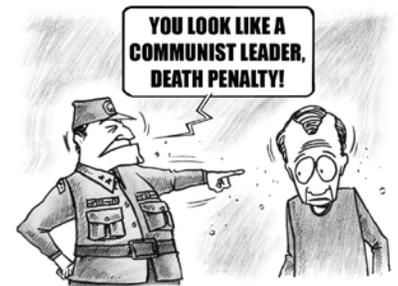
nagdag sa lista ng *capital offense* (mga krimeng mapaparusahan ng bitay) ang *treason*, parisidyo, pamimirata, *kidnapping*, *murder*, panggagahasa at *robbery with homicide*.

Japanese Occupation (1941-1945)

- Walang nakatalang nabitay sa panahong ito dahil lag-anap naman ang *extrajudicial* na pagpatay.

Pagkatapos ng Ikalawang Digma

- Idinagdag ang *espionage* sa mga krimeng may parusang bitay. Sa ilalim ng Anti-Subversion Law, ang mga lider Komunista ay papatawan ng parusang kamatayan.



Presidente Marcos (1965-1986)

- Nadagdagan at naging 24 ang mga krimeng may parusang kamatayan, kabilang na ang subersyon, arson, *hijacking*, *illegal fishing*, *cattle rustling*, *unlawful possession of firearms*, atbp.
- "Deterrence" ang naging opisyal na kadahilanan sa pagpataw ng *death penalty*. Ito rin ang gagawing batayan sa pagpataw ng Batas Militar noong 1972.



Presidente Corazon Aquino (1986-1992)

- Sa ilalim ng 1987 Saligang Batas, inabolish ang parusang kamatayan. Lahat ng sentensyang kamatayan ay ibinaba sa *reclusion perpetua*. Ngunit noong 1988, nagsimulang mag-lobby ang militari na ibalik ang parusang bitay para sa mga krimeng kaugnay ng *insurgency*.

ALAMIN ANG INYONG MGA KARAPATAN

Presidente Fidel Ramos (1993-1998)

- Bilang reaksyon sa mga krimeng “high-profile”, nagkaroon ng sapantahang tumataas ang karumal-dumal na krimen.
- Ipinasa ang RA 7659 noong Disyembre 1993 di-umano upang masugpo ang sinasabing tumataas na kriminalidad.
- 46 na krimen ang nakalista sa RA 7659 na maaring patawan ng kamatayan.
- *Lethal injection* ang magiging paraan ng sentensyang kamatayan.

Presidente Joseph Estrada (1998-2001)

- Sa harap ng malawakang kampanya laban sa *death penalty*, itinuloy ang pagpataw ng parusa kay Leo Echegaray noong Pebrero 1999. Anim pang iba ang sumunod kay Echegaray.
- Noong 1999, kung kailan naganap ang karamihan sa *execution*, tumaas naman ang bilang ng krimen sa bansa ng 15.3% kumpara sa nakaraang taon.
- Nag-isyu ng *de facto moratorium* sa pagbitay si Presidente Estrada kaalinsabay sa pagdaos ng Jubilee Year.

Presidente Gloria Arroyo (2001-2010)

- Sinabi ni Arroyo na hindi siya pabor sa parusang kamatayan.
- Dala ng tumataas na bilang ng krimeng may kaugnayan sa droga at *kidnapping*, inanusyo ni Arroyo na ibalik niya ang pagbitay “para matakot ang mga kriminal.” Noong Disyembre 5, 2003, tinanggal ni Arroyo ang *moratorium* sa bitay.
- Noong Hunyo 2006, nilagdaan ni Arroyo ang batas na nagpapawalang-bisa sa parusang kamatayan.
- Noong Septyembre 2006 naman, nilagdaan ng Pilipinas ang Second Optional Protocol sa International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Kinikilala ng kasunduang ito ang karapatan ng isang tao laban sa parusang kamatayan. Ipinagbabawal ng Protocol ang pagpataw ng parusang kamatayan sa sinumang mamamayan ng isang bansang lumagda sa nasabing protocol. Tahasang ipinagbabawal din ang muling pagpapataw ng death penalty.



Pinaghalawan: “The Criminal Justice System and the Death Penalty,” Mamamayang Tutol sa Bitay-Movement for Restorative Justice, 2006.



Jay Azucena

■ Freedom from Debt Coalition

KAPAG NAPAG-UUSAPAN ang tungkol sa karapatang pantao, kadalasan ay nababanggit lamang ang tungkol sa karapatang pampulitika at sibil. Dapat nating malaman na ang karapatang pantao ay hindi lamang pumapatungkol sa mga karapatang pampulitika at sibil.

Ang pang-ekonomya at panlipunang karapatang pantao

Nakapaloob ang mga pang-ekonomya at panlipunang karapatan sa mga karapatang kinikilala ng Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) na ipinasa ng United Nations (UN) noong 1948, partikular sa Artikulo Blg. 22-26.

Kinikilala rin ng UN ang pagkakakawing ng mga karapatang pantao. Isinasaad

halimbawa ng UDHR na ang mga mamamayan ng isang bansa ay makakamit lamang ang mga karapatang sibil at pampulitika, at ang kalayaan mula sa takot at kasalatan, kung tinatamasa nila ang mga karapatang pang-ekonomya, panlipunan at pangkultura. Kung ang mga mamamayan ay walang kabuhayan at nagugutom, hindi nila maisasakatuparan ang kanilang mga karapatang sibil at pampulitika. Ito ang argumentong kilala

bilang "full belly thesis".

Lalo pang pinatampok ng UN ang mga karapatang pang-ekonomya, panlipunan at pangkultura sa ilalim ng International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) na inilabas ng UN noong 1966. Kabilang sa mga karapatang ito ang karapatan sa paggawa, karapatan sa edukasyon, karapatan sa kalusugan, karapatan sa sapat na tirahan, karapatan sa pagkain at

karapatan sa tubig. Maituturing ding mga karapatan ang iba pang batayang serbisyo na kinakailangan ng mga mamamayan para matamasa nila ang mga nabanggit na karapatang ito.

Isinasaad din sa mga dokumentong ito ng United Nations ang pangunahing tungkulin ng estado na igtalang, protektahan at isakatuparan ang mga karapatang ito. Sa konteksto ng tungkuling ito ng estado, marapat nating

Pribatisasyon at pagyurak sa karapatang pantao



Pepito Frias



Joy Anne Icaayan

tingnan ang mga naging patakaran pang-ekonomya at panlipunan ng ating gobyerno at ang mga epekto nito sa mamamayang Pilipino.

Bahagi na ng karanasan nating mga Pilipino ang paulit-ulit na pagtaas sa presyo ng mga batayang produkto at serbisyo, kasama ang petrolyo, kuryente, tubig, mga bilingin sa palengke at pamasaha sa bus at dyip. Nitong unang dalawang buwan ng 2011 lamang, ginulantang tayo ng magkakasunod na pagtaas ng lahat ng mga nabanggit—dagdag pa ang pagtaas ng mga *toll fee* sa North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) at South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). Nakaamba na rin ang pagtaas ng pamasaha sa Metro Rail Transit (MRT) at Light Rail Transit (LRT) na pangunahing sakayan araw-araw ng daan-daan libong manggagawa, empleyado at estudyante sa Metro Manila.

Sa kabila ng mga pagtutol at kilos-protesta, hinayaan pa rin ng pamahalaang Aquino ang mga pagtaas sa presyong ito, habang isinantabi muna ang binabalak na pagtataas ng pamasaha sa MRT at LRT. Ngunit maging sa bahaging ito, sinasabi na ng gobyerno na mangyayari at mangyayari ang pagtataas ng pamasaha sa MRT at LRT dahil sobrang malaki diumano ang halagang kailangan para patuloy na matustusan ito ng gobyerno. Kamakailan lang, sinabi na rin ng Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) na plano nitong isapribado na ang pagpapatakbo ng MRT at LRT.

Kung susuriin natin ang bawat isyu kaugnay sa pagtaas ng mga presyo, makikita nating bunsod ang mga ito ng mga patakaran ng gobyerno sa pribatisasyon at liberalisasyon na nagbubunga lamang ng matinding dagok sa mga

karapatang pang-ekonomya at panlipunan ng mamamayang Pilipino.

Ang karapatan sa tubig sa harap ng pribatisasyon

Noong ika-28 ng Hulyo 2010, pormal na kinilala ng 122 bansa ang karapatan sa tubig sa isang resolusyon ng General Assembly ng UN. Kasunod nito, ipinasa ng Human Rights Council ng UN ang isang resolusyong sumang-ayon na ang karapatan sa tubig at sanitasyon ay bahagi ng karapatan sa sapat (di nagkukulang) na pamantayan sa pamumuhay.

Nakapaloob sa resolusyong ito sa karapatan sa tubig ang pantay na akses sa sapat at malinis na tubig para sa personal at pambahay na pangangailangan (tulad ng pag-inom, sanitasyon, paglaba, pagluto at paglilinis ng bahay) upang masustine ang buhay at kalusugan. Isinasaad din ng resolusyon ang tungkulin ng estado na bigyang prayoridad ang mga personal at pambahay na paggamit ng tubig, kumpara sa iba pang gamit nito, gayundin ang pagtitiyak na may sapat, malinis at murang tubig na maiipon sa hindi kalayuan sa mga kabahayan.

Sa kabila ng pagkilala sa tubig bilang karapatang pantao, nagpapatuloy at matibay naman ang patakaran sa pribatisasyon sa suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila at mga karatig-pook. Katunayan, nitong nakaraang ika-16 ng Pebrero lamang, ipinatupad ng dalawang pribadong konsesyonaryo sa tubig (ang Manila Water Company at Maynilad Water Services) ang muling pagtataas ng singil sa tubig.

Bago pa man ipatupad ang mga pagtaas nitong Pebrero, malayo na ang itinaas sa halaga ng tubig mula 1997, kung kailan naganap ang pagsasapribado sa mga operasyon ng Metropolitan Water and



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Sewerage System (MWSS). Noong 1997, ang simulang presyo ng tubig bawat kubiko kwadrado (cubic meter) ng Manila Water Company ay P2.61, samantalang sa Maynilad ay P4.96. Bago ang pagtaas nitong Pebrero, ang presyo ng tubig ay tumaas na sa halagang P19.73 sa Manila Water Company at P32.93 sa Maynilad.

Ibig sabihin nito, tumaas ng mahigit 700 porsyento ang halaga ng tubig sa Manila Water Company mula 1997, habang tumaas ng mahigit 600 porsyento naman sa Maynilad. Sa pinakahuling pagtaas, simula ika-16 ng Pebrero, ang dagdag sa singil sa tubig ay nagkakahalaga ng average na P11 para sa lahat ng klase ng *customer*. May *source* ang GMA News.TV na nagsasabi na ang P1 pagtaas sa singil sa tubig ay nangangahulugan ng karagdagang kita ng P400 milyon bawat taon para sa Maynilad.

Sa ngayon, nagkakainterens na ang mga pribadong



kompanya sa pamamamahala at pagsusuplay ng tubig sa probinsya, bagay na ineenganyo naman ng gobyerno. Isang halimbawa ang dambuhalang kompanyang Aboitiz sa Cebu na tinututulan naman ng maraming mamamayan sa Cebu at Davao.

Dapat nating tandaan na maraming mahihirap na bahagi ng Metro Manila, at tinitirhan ng malawak na bilang ng impormal na setler, ang hanggang ngayon ang hindi sinitserbisuhan pareho ng Manila Water Company at Maynilad at kulang ang akses sa malinis na tubig. Hindi naiiba ang sitwasyon ng mahihirap sa Cebu at iba pang malalaking siyudad sa ating bansa.

Ang pagsasapribado sa serbisyo sa tubig at pagtaas sa singil dito ay taliwas sa itinatad-hanang karapatan sa tubig ng United Nations. Sa halip na karapatan, ang akses sa tubig ay nagiging prebilihiyo at ang pagsuplay nito ay hindi na serbisyo kundi negosyo.

Hindi pa naman katagalan ang mga panahong ang pagtingin ng mga Pilipino sa tubig, lalo na sa probinsya, ay isang likas na yaman na dapat lamang pangalagaan ng lahat at pakinabangan ng lahat din ng tao sa isang komunidad. Ang tradisyunal na pagtingin ng ating mga ninuno sa tubig ay kabilang ito sa tinatawag na “commons” – hindi pribadong pag-aari at malayang pinakikinabangan ng komunidad. Sa ngayon, halos nalusaw na ang ganitong konsepto sa harap ng patakaran ng gobyerno na isapribado ang serbisyo ng tubig.

Pribatisasyon sa mga pasilidad sa transportasyon

Ginulantang uli tayo ng balak na pagtaas sa pamasaha sa LRT1, LRT2 at MRT3 na magiging epektibo sa Marso 1, 2011. Ngunit ang balaking ito ay pansamantalang naantala sa harap ng malawang pagprotesta ng mamamayan sa Metro Manila.

Sa ilalim ng balak na pagtaas sa pamasaha, ang mga pasahero sa LRT 1 & 2 at MRT EDSA ay magbabayad ng minimum na P15 (mula sa

P10), at P30 (mula sa kasalukuyang P15) para sa “end-to-end trip”.

Samakatuwiran, madodoble ang pamasaha ng mga taong ang biyahe ay “end-to-end” at madaragdagan ng minimum na 33 porsyento ang pamasaha ng iba pa. Sa huling pagpupulong ng gobyerno, pansamantalang ipinagpaliban ng gobyernong Aquino ang implementasyon ng balaking pagtataas na ito, ngunit ipinahayag din nito na sa malao’t madali ay hindi maiiwasan ang pagtaas.

Ang tanong: makatuwiran ba ang pagtaas sa pamasaha na ito?

Kung susuriin natin ang gastusin hinggil sa operasyon ng LRT 1 & 2 at MRT, makikita nating ang bulito ng binabayaran ng gobyerno ay hindi ang operasyon o pagmantine ng tatlong linya, kundi ang binabayaran halaga para sa kita ng mga pribadong kompanya na gumawa ng proyekto. Mahirap isipin na may kailangang bayaran ang gobyerno na humigit-kumulang P7.8 bilyon sa kita ng mga kompanyang ito.

Ang mga proyektong North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) at South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) ay kahalintulad ng LRT at MRT dahil lahat sila ay kabilang sa iskemang Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) na sa ngayon ay nirerepake bilang Public-Private Partnership Agreement (PPP).

Kaugnay nito, dapat din nating tandaan na karaniwan na ang korapsyon sa mga proyektong imprastrukturang katulad ng mga ito sa gobyerno at ang halaga ng mga proyekto ay lumalaki dahil sa iskemang ito,

Ang pagtaas sa presyo ng gasolina at kuryente

Ang pagtaas sa presyo ng mga produktong petrolyo ay mauugat din sa patakarang pribatisasyon at deregulasyon sa sektor ng enerhiya. Simula



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nang ipatupad ang deregulasyon at pribatisasyon sa sektor na ito, nawalan na ang gobyerno ng kapangyarihang pigilan ang mga pagtaas sa presyo ng mga produktong petrolyo.

Nawalan din ng kapangyarihan ang gobyerno na masubaybayan ang tunay na halaga at gastos ng mga kompanyang ito sa pagbili ng langis sa pandaigdigang merkado. Ang kapangyarihan ng gobyerno para impluwensyahan ang presyo ng mga produktong petrolyo ay nawala nang ibenta nito ang Petron. Mangyayari lamang na maiimpluwensyahan nito ang presyo ng petrolyo kung magkakaroon itong muli ng kumpanya sa langis na kayang sumabay sa merkado at makontrol ang manipulasyon sa presyuhang langis.

Halos kasabay ng tubig ang pagtaas ng singil sa kuryente.

Ang presyo ng kuryente sa bansa ay isa sa pinakamataas sa ating rehiyon at mas mataas pa kaysa sa bansang Japan. Ang pagtataas ng presyo ng kuryente ay ang pinakahuli lamang mula ng mahawakan ng pribadong sektor hindi lamang ang suplay kundi ang *generation* mismo ng kuryente. Mula sa monopolyo ng gobyerno, isinapribado ang sektor hanggang sa umiral hindi ang kumpetisyon kundi ang dominasyon ng iilang kumpanya sampu ng kanilang mga kasosyo mula sa *generation* tungo sa distribusyon ng kuryente.

Ang patuloy na pagtaas sa singil sa kuryente ay bunga ng patakarang pribatisasyon ng gobyerno sa sektor na ito.

Ang pang-ekonomya at panlipunan na karapatan

Nabuo ang mga karapatang pang-ekonomya at pan-



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lipunan sa kabila ng mga diskusyon hinggil sa kung ang mga ito ba ay kapantay ng mga pampulitika at sibil na karapatang pantao. Sa huli, sinabi ng UN na ang mga karapatang ito ay bahagi ng mga karapatang dapat tinatamasa ng lahat ng tao.

Bagama’t hindi tuwirang kinikilala ang akses sa transportasyon at kuryente bilang bahagi ng mga karapatang pang-ekonomya at panlipunan, dapat nating tandaan na ang mga serbisyong ito ay kinakailangan upang matamasa natin ang buhay na maramangal na kinikilala ng United Nations. Sa puntong ito, dapat nating tandaan na magkawang ang lahat ng karapatang pantao. Hindi lubusang matatamasa ang karapatang pampulitika at sibil kung ang mga karapatang pang-ekonomya at panlipunan ay patuloy na ipinagkakait at hindi kinikilala ng mga namumuno sa ating gobyerno.

Ininasaad mismo ng Universal Declaration on Human Rights noon pang 1948 na ang mga mamamayan ng isang bansa ay makakamit lamang ang mga karapatang sibil at pampulitika, at ang kalayaan mula sa takot at kasalatan, kung tinatamasa nila ang mga karapatang pang-ekonomya, panlipunan at pangkultura. ■

■ By the **Medical Action Group**

IN MARCH this year, Dr Shin Young-soo, the World Health Organization's regional director for the Western Pacific expressed concern over "the continued absence of sufficient healthcare coverage in the country." The WHO official noted that some 250,000 families "fall into financial hardships" because of the excessive cost of health care.

This observation comes in the midst of the Aquino administration's avowed push for Universal Health Coverage, especially for indigent Filipino families, as one of its health agenda. Such a universal health care system would bridge the healthcare disparities between the rich and the majority poor.

The 1987 Constitution provides that all Filipinos should have access to health services. This policy finds full expression in Article II, Section 15: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Article XIII, Section 11 provides that "The State should adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to



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health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable costs. There shall be priority for the

Achieving Universal Health Coverage Rx for the Ailing Health Sector: PhilHealth reforms



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needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”

And yet, from one administration to another, the same issues and deficiencies continue to plague the country’s health sector. Key healthcare issues crippling the nation like the healthcare inequities, failed public healthcare financing, the continuous exodus of health professionals and weak health regulations pose critical challenges for the Aquino administration in attaining Universal Health Coverage.

Badly broken

Calling our country’s health care system “badly broken” and in need of repair, President Benigno S. Aquino III outlined his plans for a reform package based on universal health coverage for all Filipinos. This plan would put the national government at center stage for funding healthcare services by amending Republic Act No. 7875 (otherwise known as the National Health Insurance Act of 1995) or enacting a new law



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by developing more extensive and equitable tax-based systems, or social health insurance-based systems or mixes of those. To ensure universal health coverage it will be necessary to increase the extent of prepayment and reduce the reliance on out-of-pocket payments and user fees.

This reform agenda for universal coverage is anchored on the provision of comprehensive but accessible and affordable healthcare services to all Filipinos. It focuses on expansion of coverage of the national health insurance system to include all Filipinos within the next three years and provision of effective and

affordable health care services that shall be accessible to all Filipinos in private and public hospitals.

While every Filipino is entitled to healthcare as provided by the Constitution, here in the Philippines, healthcare happens to be a privilege. The majority of the Filipinos rely on the private sector for their healthcare needs, thus making these services more of a commodity rather than entitlements. The majority cannot afford such services, resulting in grim statistics: for example, an estimated 60 percent of Filipinos die without seeing a health professional. Putting a stop to these healthcare ineq-



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uities would require immense political commitment from the present administration.

Universal Healthcare

Universal coverage of healthcare means that everyone in the population has access to appropriate promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare when they need it and at an affordable cost.¹ Universal coverage thus implies equity of access and financial risk protection. It is also based on the notion of equity in financing, i.e., that people contribute on the basis of their ability to pay rather than according to whether they fall ill. This implies that a major source of health funding needs to come from pre-paid and pooled contributions rather than from fees or charges levied once a person falls ill and accesses health services.²

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), universal coverage requires choices to be made in each of the three components of a health financing system:

- revenue collection: financial contributions to the health system have to be collected equitably and efficiently;
- pooling: contributions

are pooled so that the costs of healthcare are shared by all and not borne by individuals at the time they fall ill (this requires a certain level of solidarity in society); and

- purchasing: the contributions are used to buy or provide appropriate and effective health interventions.

WHO further said that countries that have achieved universal coverage have developed prepayment systems that are commonly described as tax-based or social health insurance-based (SHI). In a tax-based system, general tax revenue is the main source of financing, and the available funds are used by the government to provide or purchase health services. In an SHI system, contributions come from workers, the self-employed, enterprises and government. In both, the contributions made by all contributors are pooled and services are provided only to those who need them. The financial risks associated with ill health in the population as a whole are shared by all contributors, and the pooled funds therefore perform an insurance function. In tax-based systems, however, the insurance is implicit (in general, people do not know how much of their taxes fund health services), whereas in SHI it is explicit (in general, people know what they are paying for health). In both systems, the funds are usually used to purchase or provide services from a mix of public and private providers.

Health for all Filipinos

The country's deteriorating healthcare situation is urgent not just for the poor themselves but for all Filipinos whose general welfare depends on the good health of all. Radical changes in various arenas of the healthcare sector are imperative in order to re-



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verse these trends.

To make health services available, accessible and affordable, the reform agenda seeks to resuscitate the largely sluggish health sector and promote efficiency, economy of scale and effectiveness in service delivery. One of these measures is the institutionalization of reforms in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

In 1995, the National Health Insurance Law, which established PhilHealth, called for health insurance for all Filipinos by 2010. However it is disturbing to know that since PhilHealth was created fifteen years ago, out-of-pocket payments have shot up from 40 to 54 percent of health financing in 2007. Ironically, even the country's national insurance program ends up devoting

much of its resources reimbursing healthcare facilities and providers in the more developed and urbanized areas, while its coverage remains very low among rural and poorest areas. PhilHealth coverage according to the 2008 NDHS is lowest in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Based on the 2006 Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES), about 70 percent of the population could not afford to pay for health care services due to their low income and the high cost of medical care. These are the same Filipinos that suffer from worse health outcomes because they are not able to access healthcare when they need it and where they need it. They are more likely to die without the benefit of seeing

the inside of a hospital or receiving care from a medical professional. This is not surprising, given that the Philippines has a "highly resourced private sector", where seven out of ten health practitioners are working in the private sector and servicing only 20-30 percent of the population (the same population that can afford healthcare services).

The disparity in access to and use of health care services, resources and outcomes resulted in a wide gap in the health status between the rich and poor Filipino families. This situation threatens to get even worse because of the failed public healthcare financing. Based on the national budget allocation, a Filipino taxpayer spends only about P1.10 a day for health care compared to P21.75 spent by the government on debt servicing. With the increasing cost of healthcare services, even among those with a regular income, surviving a major ailment or illness is nothing short of a miracle.

As we race to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the health sector should be prioritized by the State today. However, the government's response remains anemic: total health expenditure only accounted for 3.8 percent of the country's GDP (2006), well below the 5 percent standard set by the WHO for developing countries like the Philippines.

Due to increasing cost of healthcare services and the lack of appropriate social protection, illness becomes a catastrophic experience, especially for the poor Filipino families. Out-of-pocket payments for health care services are increasing in the Philippines. Of the total health spending, according to the 2007 Philippine National Health Accounts (PNHA), only 9 percent was shouldered by social health

insurance, both the national government and local government shared 13 percent, other sources at 11 percent, and 54 percent came from out-of-pocket payments made by the patients. This trend spells doom for individuals and families from the lowest income groups who have no pockets to begin with.

Based on the 2008 NDHS, only 42 percent of Filipinos are covered by some form of health insurance. Although it is the dominant insurance provider, PhilHealth coverage at the national level remains low at 38 percent of the population. Coverage through the Social Security System (SSS) is 11 percent, while the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) covered about 2 percent of the population. Moreover, 2 percent of Filipinos are covered by private insurance or membership in health maintenance organizations (HMOs).

It will be impossible to achieve Universal Health Coverage without greater and more effective investment in health systems and services. Beyond these, central to attaining



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Universal Health Coverage are reforms to be instituted in PhilHealth.

The government must admit that PhilHealth has fallen short of its target, as health insurance barely protects 38 percent of all Filipinos (2008 NDHS). It is clear that the Social Health Insurance scheme as currently implemented by PhilHealth is not working towards the envisioned "sustainable, affordable and progressive social health

insurance, which endeavors to influence the delivery of accessible quality health care for all Filipinos."

How can reforms in the PhilHealth be done? Certainly it will begin with making sure that over 11 million Filipino families who are the poorest of the poor will be supported and covered by an allocation of P15 billion to cover their PhilHealth premium.

Such reforms must go be-

yond the distribution of Phil-Health cards. The overarching philosophy is that access to health care services is based on needs and not on the capability to pay. Universal Health Care should mean that every Filipino will get not merely the card, but more importantly, the affordable and appropriate quality healthcare services that are their right. Thus in the medium-term, the development of an initial package of basic health services to be made available to every Filipino given the present resources available to the health system should be implemented.

- 1 See the background document "Social health insurance—Sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance" to the Resolution of the Executive Board at its 115th Session (Resolution EB115.R13), www.who.int/health_financing
- 2 Technical Brief for Policy-Makers 2 on Designing Health Financing Systems to Reduce Catastrophic Health Expenditure



Pepito Frias

Hero's burial for Marcos opposed

THE PHILIPPINE Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA) joined other civil society groups and individuals in denouncing the House Resolution that endorses the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. In a statement released recently, PAHRA called on the lawmakers who signed the resolution to withdraw their signatures, saying the approval of the resolution would turn the House of Representatives into a House of Impunity.

The resolution, PAHRA further said, will legitimize the numerous human rights violations



perpetrated during the Marcos regime.

PAHRA is an umbrella organization of human rights organizations and individuals.

Rights groups slam Palace decision on PAL spin-off

SAYING THAT workers' rights and dignity should be the priority of the Aquino administration, several human rights groups expressed dismay over the recent Malacañang ruling upholding the Philippine Airlines' move to subcontract its Airport Services, In-flight Catering, and Call Center Reservations Units. According to the PAL Employees Association (PALEA), this spin-off plan could lay off 2,600 workers.

Among the civil society groups that expressed support for PALEA's battle with the PAL management are the NGO-PO Network for Economic, Social,

and Cultural Rights, a broad coalition of around fifty (50) civil society organizations, the Church Labor Conference, an alliance of labor groups and Catholic Church people working for labor welfare, and the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates.

PALEA recently announced that it will file a complaint against the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) before the International Labor Organization (ILO) for alleged violations of ILO conventions on freedom of association, collective bargaining and the right to hold strikes.

HR TRIVIA

THE RIGHT WORDS:

"Poverty is the absence of all human rights. The frustrations, hostility and anger generated by abject poverty cannot sustain peace in any society. For building stable peace we must find ways to provide opportunities for people to live decent lives."

— Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank

IN THIS QUARTER

World Day Against Child Labour – June 12

A RECENT study by the US Department of Labor reports that the Philippines is one of over 120 countries where the "worst forms of child labor," such as prostitution, pornography and the sex tourism industry, as well as agriculture, domestic work, drug trafficking and child soldiering, continue to exist.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), hundreds of millions of children worldwide who are engaged in work are deprived of adequate education, health, leisure and basic freedoms. ILO estimates that some 115 million children are engaged in hazardous work, or work "likely to harm children's health, safety or morals".

In launching the first **World Day Against Child Labour** in 2002, the ILO hoped to call attention to the plight of child labourers and catalyze the growing international movement against child labour.

Spotlighted this year is hazard-



<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=16615>

ous child labour, with the slogan: **"Warning! Children in hazardous work - End child labour!"**

2011's World Day Against Child Labour calls for:

- New urgency in identifying and tackling hazardous child labour, as an important means to make progress on the global goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour;
- Recognising that hazardous work is part of the larger child labour problem, scaling up global, national and local level efforts against all forms of child labour through education, social protection and strategies to promote decent and productive work for youth and adults;
- Building strong tripartite action on the issue of the hazardous work of children, using international standards and the experience of employers' and workers' organizations in the area of safety and health.

(You can visit the campaign's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/12-June-World-Day-Against-Child-Labour/191728314200082?sk=wall>)

Source: <http://www.ilo.org/>

LABADA REPUBLIC



FACTS AND FIGURES

Clustering of Provinces based on 2009 Poverty Incidence among Families, by Province: 2009

Province	Cluster a/	Poverty Incidence, 2009
1. Zamboanga del Norte	1	52.9
2. Agusan del Sur	1	51.2
3. Surigao del Norte	1	47.9
4. Eastern Samar	1	45.8
5. Maguindanao	1	44.6
6. Zamboanga Sibugay	1	43.2
7. Romblon	1	43.0
8. Masbate	1	42.5
9. Davao Oriental	1	42.5
10. Northern Samar	1	41.7
11. Bohol	1	41.0
12. Saranggani	1	40.7
13. Sulu	1	39.3
14. Lanao del Norte	1	39.0
15. Camarines Sur	1	38.7
16. Aklan	2	38.1
17. Misamis Occidental	2	36.9
18. Western Samar	2	36.9
19. Lanao del Sur	2	36.8
20. Albay	2	36.5
21. Negros Oriental	2	36.4
22. Camiguin b/	2	36.4
23. Surigao del Sur	2	36.3
24. Apayao	2	36.3
25. Sultan Kudarat	2	35.2
26. Mt. Province	2	33.8
27. Abra	2	33.3
28. Bukidnon	2	33.0
29. Siquijor b/	2	32.8
30. Camarines Norte	2	32.3
31. Tawi-tawi	2	31.5
32. Sorsogon	2	31.3
33. Compostela Valley	2	31.1
34. Southern Leyte	2	30.3
35. Davao del Norte	2	29.6
36. Antique	2	29.1
37. Marinduque	2	28.6
38. Biliran	2	28.0
39. Leyte	3	27.8
40. Agusan del Norte	3	27.3
41. Nueva Ecija	3	26.3
42. Misamis Oriental	3	26.3
43. Zamboanga del Sur	3	26.2
44. Oriental Mindoro	3	26.0
45. North Cotabato	3	25.6
46. Occidental Mindoro	3	25.4
47. Cebu	3	25.2
48. Quezon	3	24.5
49. Negros Occidental	3	24.4
50. Palawan	3	24.0
51. Cotabato City b/	3	23.7
52. South Cotabato	3	23.6
53. La Union	3	23.3
54. Basilan	3	23.0
55. Capiz	3	22.6
56. Catanduanes	3	22.3
57. Ifugao	3	21.3
58. Iloilo	3	19.9
59. Pangasinan	3	19.5
60. Aurora a/	3	19.5
61. Kalinga	3	19.3

Province	Cluster a/	Poverty Incidence, 2009
62. Davao del Sur	3	19.2
63. Isabela City b/	4	17.2
64. Isabela	4	16.2
65. Cagayan	4	15.8
66. Tarlac	4	15.6
67. Batangas	4	14.0
68. Guimaras b/	4	13.3
69. Zambales	4	13.0
70. Ilocos Sur	4	12.5
71. Quirino	4	9.3
72. Ilocos Norte	5	9.2
73. Bataan	5	7.4
74. Nueva Vizcaya	5	6.7
75. Pampanga	5	6.7
76. Rizal	5	6.5
77. Laguna	5	5.9
78. Bulacan	5	4.8
79. Cavite	5	4.5
80. Benguet	5	4.0
81. 3rd District	5	3.8
82. 1st District	5	3.8
83. 2nd District	5	2.4
84. 4th District	5	1.6
85. Batanes b/	5	0.0

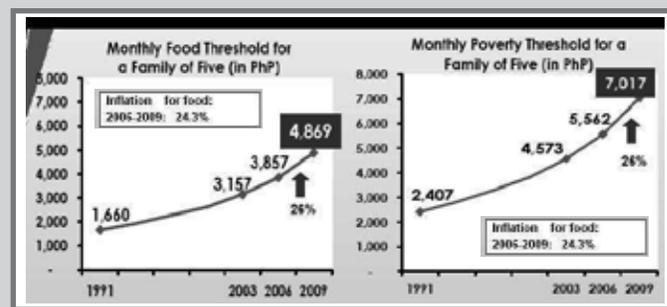
NOTES:

a/ Variable used in the cluster analysis is the 90% confidence interval of poverty incidence among families.

b/ Province with sample size less than 100.

Source: National Statistical Coordination Board (http://nscb.gov.ph/poverty/2009/table_15.asp)

In 2009, a family of 5 needed an income of P4,869 per month to meet food needs. To stay above the poverty line, a family of 5 needed to earn P7,017 a month.

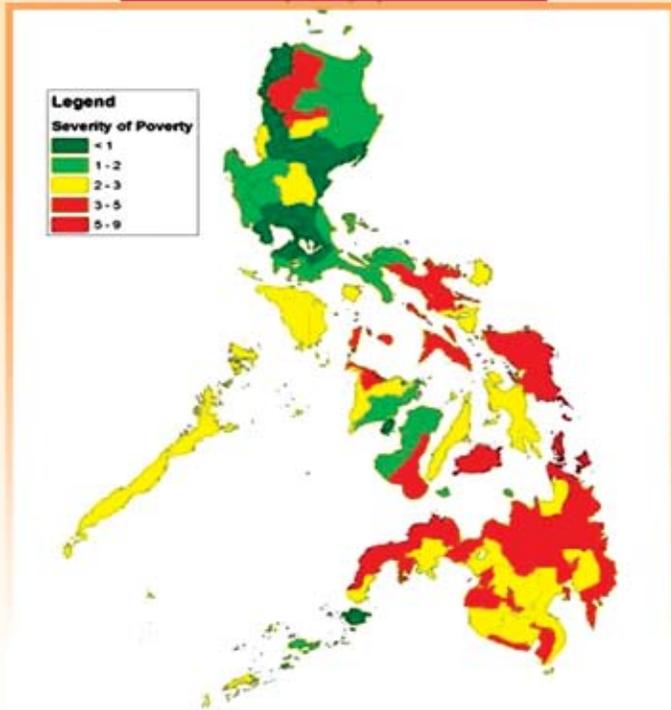


In 2009, a family of 5 needed a daily income of P231 to stay out of poverty

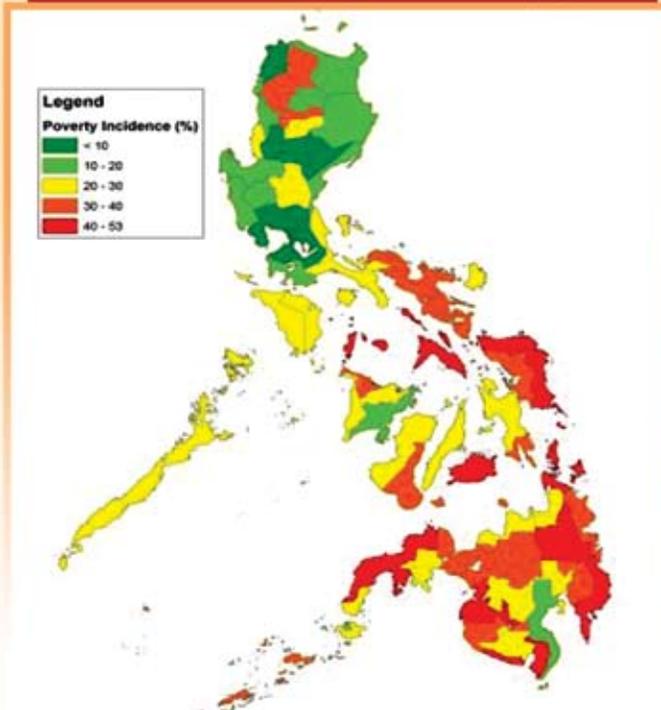
Family size	Required income (in PHP)		
	Daily	Monthly	Annual
1	46	1,403	16,841
2	92	2,807	33,682
3	138	4,210	50,523
4	185	5,614	67,364
5	231	7,017	84,205
6	277	8,421	101,046
7	323	9,824	117,887
8	369	11,227	134,729

Source: <http://uscb.gov.ph>

SEVERITY OF POVERTY 2009



POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES (%) 2009



Source: <http://uscb.gov.ph>



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.

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