

De La Salle University
Center for Social Concern and Action

PALASO

July 2013, Vol. 1 Issue 1



THE
PHILIPPINE
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SITUATION

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THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SITUATION

By Gregorio L. Quitangon

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Foreword

PALASO is the bi-annual newsletter of the Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA), the social action arm of the De La Salle University. Basically, the three-fold objectives of **PALASO** featuring “*The Philippine National Situation*” are:

- 1) To increase social awareness of the Lasallian Family particularly, its faculty and students;
 - 2) To promote critical thinking by providing in-depth social analysis to stimulate discussions among Lasallians on how the DLSU could become an agent of change as part of Higher Education; and
 - 3) To provide a reference materials useful for academic teaching, research and community engagement.
- a) fighting corruption practices to restore public trust and business confidence towards a sustainable economy;
 - b) reducing poverty and inequality,
 - c) creating more regular jobs,
 - d) improving maternal health, childcare and the general well being of Filipinos,

Essentially, the ***Philippine National Situation*** consists of nine parts plus an Executive Summary providing the main points, summary and conclusion. **Part I** is the *Introduction* which provides context on the importance of gauging the performance of the Aquino Administration whether PNoy’s Social Contract with the Filipino people has brought us closer to the goals of:

- e) enforcing the rule of law equally while, ensuring national sovereignty in the country, and
- f) protecting the integrity of Philippine environment.
- a) reduced corruption practices;
- b) managed budget deficit and improved government collection of internal revenues;

Part 2 locates the *Philippines* in the global arena providing some basic information concerning its geographical location, population, dominant religion, type of economy, political structures and system of government and environmental concerns.

Part 3 discusses the dual type economy of the Philippines between the “haves” and “have nots” which lead us to conclude that while our national economy is growing, many of the Filipinos are still poor, hungry and jobless.

Part 4 describes the *Philippine National Budget* and how this would be spent to sustain the gains of PNOY’s social and economic reforms in the country.

Part 5 provides a glimpse on how the *Aquino Administration* is effectively and efficiently managing our Philippine national economy. It highlights the extent to which the objectives of the social and economic programs of PNoy have touched the lives of the Filipinos particularly, the poor and the vulnerable sector. There are evidences that showed that we have:

- c) somehow alleviated poverty through the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps) where 3M poorest families were given financial support to improve their health, nutrition and education. Although this program is not enough to reduce poverty;
- d) permanent jobs are still wanting especially in industrial and agricultural sector;
- e) peace and order prevails while the execution of swift justice remains a challenge; and
- f) there are environmental efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters to protect the Filipinos especially the disadvantaged groups.

Part 6 deals with the *Philippine National Election 2013* with emphasis on the chronic problem of political dynasties vis-a-vis the results of the midterm May 2013 national election. It appears that PNoy continues to enjoy the trust and confidence of the Filipinos. Nine of his endorsed senatorial candidates won the seats in the Senate to support his path through honest and effective governance.

Part 7 enumerates the *Prospects and Challenges* that need to be addressed towards a better Philippines. The prospect is bright and is working for the Aquino government, which has restored public trust and business confidence including the international community. The Philippine economy is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. However, the challenges still remain on how to address the following issues and concerns:

- a) Inclusive growth over exclusive growth;
- b) Persistence of Poverty, Hunger & Unemployment;
- c) Awakening a National Cultural Consciousness amid cultural homogenization;
- d) Ending Political Dynasties;
- e) Handling Peace Accord and Upholding Human Rights; and
- f) Mitigating Climate Change.

Part 8 pertains to the *Lasallian Response to Social Transformation* consistent with the foundational principles and social development tenets. It highlights the newly developed Community Engagement Framework as a guide on how to proceed in fulfilling its noble mission of providing human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor. De La Salle University

and its 16 affiliated schools in the country must continue its strategic role of generating and transmitting knowledge through academic excellence, exemplary research, and community engagement. It behooves every Lasallian to constantly practice and observe the core values of Faith, Service and Communion in Mission in serving God and the nation.

Part 9 is the Reference section. It hopes to give justice and credits to the works of various authors and citing reliable sources of information officially published and unpublished documents.

We hope that this issue of the ***Philippine National Situation*** will be useful and helpful in our social development work most especially in social formation and community engagement. May this serve as a good reference material in our academic discussion in search of meaningful reforms for the betterment of Philippine society. In this light, this newsletter is being prepared to aid the Lasallians in reading the *signs of the times* to serve as a guide for individual and communal discernment as we await for the 4th State of the Nation Address (SONA) of PNoy in July 2013.

Happy reading!


Ma. Lourdes F. Melegrito
Director, COSCA

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Executive Summary

PNoy's rise to the presidency has created high hopes and expectations from Filipinos longing for good governance, better economy and the improvement in the quality of life. After three years in public office, we can conclude that the path through honest and effective governance of the Aquino administration has bore positive fruition. To a great extent, Team PNoy has been successful in reducing corruption practices by putting in place credible transparency and accountability mechanism where the private sector and civil society organizations could participate meaningfully in monitoring the government's public funds. Internally, the Aquino administration has focused on:

- a) better tax collection and efficient administration to increase revenues;
- b) fiscal discipline to reduce debts; and
- c) prudent and rationalized spending of public funds consistent with the principles of zero-based budgeting.

Externally, the government has adopted Public-Private Partnerships to attract both local and foreign investors. The responsible use of the PPP as a strategy of funding traditional public works and public services has reduced contingent liabilities of government and supported our nation's infrastructure development for its light rail, airport projects and urban transport program. With strong international support and cooperation, the Aquino administration has received development grants and technical assistance from the WB (\$59M), Millennium Corporation (\$434M grant) and the ODA from Japanese government (\$2.4B). Needless to say, there are other benevolent financial institutions and funding donors that supported the poverty alleviation programs of the government.

Overall, the positive economic outlook may be attributed to the Aquino administration's efforts in instituting good governance principles that restored public trust and business confidence. That is why despite the global financial crisis

and numerous disasters that hit the country, the Philippine national economy continues to grow for the past three years with an impressive 7.8 economic growth in the first quarter of January 2013. Dr. Cielito Habito confirmed the Philippines as the fastest growing economy in Asia beating China's first quarter growth. The 7.8% growth in gross domestic product (GDP) was proudly home-grown driven by construction and manufacturing industry, supported by financial intermediation and trade.

Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Artemio Balisacan affirmed that our country is now slowly reaping the benefits of strengthening priority sectors that are potential growth drivers and employment generators. The challenge is how to strengthen other industries and sectors that hold the greatest potential for inducing more inclusive growth, which according to Dr. Habito are:

- 1) Agriculture and Agribusiness;
- 2) Tourism;
- 3) Business Process Outsourcing;
- 4) Food and Design-Based Manufactures (i.e., high end garments and furniture and fixtures); and
- 5) Mining.

In recent years, however, the best performing sectors are the services and financial sector boosted by: (a) OFW dollar remittances that reached a record high of \$1.93 bil-

lion in cash last October 2012 as global demand for Filipino workers remained strong; and (b) the inflow of portfolio investments to the country amounting to \$1.01 billion in November 2012. For 2013, manufacturing and construction industries performed well to sustain the positive economic growth of our national economy. Agriculture remains sluggish wanting for more infrastructure development projects that would produce sufficient and permanent jobs in the countryside.

Yet in spite of the economic growth, the persistence of poverty, hunger and unemployment continue to plague the nation. In fact, the NSCB study revealed that poverty virtually remains unchanged over the past six years. Poverty incidence is highest in Mindanao particularly in Lanao del Sur, Apayao, Eastern Samar, Maguindanao and Zamboanga del Norte. By region, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Region 12, Region 8, Region 9 and Region 10 have consistently posted the highest family poverty incidence.

According to Balisacan, the January 2013 unemployment rate stood at 7.1% with a further 20.9% underemployed or working fewer than 40 hours a week. Because of this fact, many workers are deprived of the opportunity to earn enough due to widespread unemployment and underemployment especially in the agriculture sector. The direct result is poverty and hunger since the poor could no longer afford to buy

basic needs due to continuing price hike. Many Filipino poor are devoid of basic necessities and they have limited access to social services and control over productive assets to escape poverty. It is no wonder that we have 16 million undernourished persons in the Philippines today.

Economically, the four major challenges faced by the government are: (1) Sustaining economic growth and making it more inclusive to benefit a broader spectrum of the society both sectorally and geographically; (2) Pursuing the path of agro-industrialization via implementing asset reform agenda so that the poor will have access to and control over productive assets such as land and water; (3) Strengthening industrial base and revitalizing Philippine agriculture through infrastructure development where a majority of jobless and underemployed Filipino poor can be found; and (4) Producing skilled and highly competitive labour force mostly, composed of the youth in order to meet the needs of various industries and demands of the global economy. To date, more than 4 thousand OFWs are leaving the country daily in search of a better paying job across the globe.

With the earnest desire to foster inclusive growth, PNoy has allocated government resources in favor of the poor. Budget for social services were increased to mitigate critical gaps in poverty alleviation programs, job creation, education, health, social welfare and housing.

Out of the estimated 4.7M poor households identified under the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) of the DSWD, 3M extremely poor households were reached by the conditional cash grants to improve their health, nutrition and access to education, particularly for children aged 0–14 years old. There is evidence showing that the Filipino poor are slowly beginning to feel the positive effects of 4Ps being implemented by the DSWD across the nation. Although it is still a challenge on how this national poverty alleviation program will be sustained to create a lasting impact to the lives of the poor. It is imperative to implement genuine asset reform agenda which requires strong political will from the President and his economic team.

Today, we have better health programs and services to improve maternal health, childcare and the general well being of millions of Filipinos especially the poor. During his 3rd SONA, PNoy reported that at least 672,977 mothers were getting regular checkups while 1,672,814 children were vaccinated against diarrhea, polio, measles, and various other diseases. There were 30,801 nurses and health professionals assisted ably by over 11,000 community health workers who were deployed to remote areas where they are most needed. In fact, the government had sent health professionals to 1,021 localities covered by the 4Ps and to the 609 poorest cities and municipalities, as identified by NAPC. About 85% of

Filipinos are now enrolled in Phil-Health and could readily avail of its array of benefits and services.

Because of CCT, there are at least 4.57M students who no longer need to miss school because of poverty. Education received the highest budget priority under PNoy administration from Php238.8B (2012) to Php292.7B (2013). The DepEd in partnership with the private sectors has been hiring 61,000 additional teachers for public schools this school year. The construction of thousands of classrooms, tables and chairs are underway including the purchase of new textbooks. DepEd Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC assured the general public of a zero backlog before the end of this year. The DepEd will sustain its efforts on feeding malnourished children to improve their health and school performance.

More than 3M jobs were produced by the Aquino administration through the concerted efforts of DOLE, DTI and TESDA apart from the job-generating strategies carried out by DTI, DA, DPWH, DOTC and DOT in the areas of business processing and outsourcing, agriculture, infrastructure development and tourism industry.

Politically, the popularity of PNoy did not wither as reflected in the recently concluded May 2013 national election where nine of his endorsed candidates won the senatorial seats to fully support the economic and social reform agenda of

his administration towards corrupt-free Philippines.

PNoy administration has been doing its best to enforce the law equally while asserting our national sovereignty over China in the disputed Spratley island. The ongoing trial of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo under hospital arrest and the impeachment of former Chief Justice Renato Corona are good signs that the government is serious in seeking justice and that nobody is above the law. The government must be able to consistently observe and uphold human rights of its citizens especially journalists and political activists. To end violence and conflict, the government must handle effectively the Peace Agreement process involving countervailing forces threatening our democracy in the country. It is imperative to end political dynasties in the country.

With the advent of globalization, cultural homogenization remains a growing concern that needs to be addressed by the government, civil society organizations, private sector, the church and other religious groups, and of course, the Academe where moral values and spiritual formation are needed to guide our youngsters exposed to new age ideas and Western culture of hyper-consumerism. Over time, this may lead to the erosion of our national identity and cultural values. Consequently, the challenge is how to create a nationalist culture promoting love of God and country, peace,

social justice, and the integrity of creation.

In response to climate change and imminent danger posed by numerous disasters, the Aquino administration has been pro-active in planning and implementing an integrated and well-coordinated Disaster Risk and Reduction Management (DRRM) program involving several stakeholders. Through Project NOAH, the government has acquired latest technologies to monitor the weather forecast to save thousands of lives and protect multimillion properties. In the near future, the Philippine government must address the imminent threat posed by climate change, rampant illegal logging and irresponsible mining practices affecting the Filipino poor particularly, upland farmers, and indigenous peoples in the rural areas.

It is in this context that De La Salle University (DLSU) like any other educational institutions must reflect on its transformative role to bring forth genuine social development, a society where everyone is liberated from the yoke of poverty, ignorance and social injustice towards the fullness of life. The signs of the times only reaffirm the imperative of the Lasallian mission of providing human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor.

As part of Higher Education, DLSU must contribute to the task of nation building by producing Lasal-

lian achievers for God and country. It must continue its strategic role of generating and transmitting knowledge through academic excellence, exemplary research and community engagement. Operationally, it implies that DLSU must be able to mobilize its resources especially the skills and expertise of its faculty and students in teaching, research and community engagement work to actively participate in societal issues and concerns. The Lasallians could develop a national framework and road map for national development. It should also strengthen academic-industry relationship in order to develop new technologies and scientific breakthroughs that would bring more opportunities for real social transformation. In this sense, DLSU becomes a truly engaged university bridging faith and scholarship in the service of the nation.

According to Br. Ricardo Laguda FSC, 22nd president of DLSU, the important functions of service and community engagement is to facilitate the process of creating new knowledge and applying them innovatively as solutions that bring about social change and transformation, solutions that have revolutionized partnerships with non-government organizations, people's organizations, private and public sectors. Such partnerships should create a sustainable future for generations to come. DLSU needs to consider its strategic roles in national and regional development, and ask itself whether the University served as agents of change.

Consistent with the Lasallian social development principles, the way to proceed is to follow the newly developed Community Engagement Framework of DLSU which has three inter-related phases and processes. Basically, it follows a three-track approach:

- Phase 1** – *Bringing forth social awareness and understanding;*
- Phase 2** – *Partnership Building and Association in Mission; and*
- Phase 3** – *Effecting Liberating Action through social/community engagements towards the vision-mission of DLSU.*

Since the First Lasallian District Synod, DLSU has adopted faith, service, and communion in mission as its core values. Lasallian community should imbibe these values and seek opportunities to apply them. According to Br. Michael Broughton FSC, *“these values are central to our identity as a Lasallian institution for higher learning as they guide us in pursuing community engagement activities that are related to our fields of expertise.”* Every Lasallian institution must ensure *“the integration of the principles of Lasallian Social Development in curricular and externally oriented programs that will guarantee the exposure of students to social realities and encourage their active involvement.”* (2009a)

Indeed, the DLSU has a long and vibrant tradition of community engagement with the active participation of Lasallian brothers, alumni, parents, administrators, faculty, students and external partner communities. Together by association, they have been touching hearts, teaching minds and transforming lives in the Philippines. Most of its community engagements are implemented locally in collaboration and/or in partnership with civil society organizations, faith based groups, local government units (LGUs) and disadvantaged groups. The scope and area coverage of its involvement varies depending on the needs of its target sectors and nature of community engagement starting from micro, meso, national up to international levels.

Presently, there are various types and modes of community engagement to benefit Lasallian students and the marginalized sectors ranging from direct community service that shows simple acts of charity, love and compassion for the poor, pastoral work, teaching, applied research, technical assistance and support services for education, business, environmental protection/conservation, advocacy to political actions for the betterment of Philippine society. A list of DLSU community engagement initiatives are cited to highlight the diversity and nature of its community development work involving the eight Colleges of the University including various stakeholders.

A SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH THE FILIPINO PEOPLE



The Vision for the Philippines: A country with...

1. A re-awakened sense of right and wrong, through the living examples of our highest leaders;
2. An organized and widely-shared rapid expansion of our economy through a government dedicated to honing and mobilizing our people's skills and energies as well as the responsible harnessing of our natural resources;
3. A collective belief that doing the right thing does not only make sense morally, but translates into economic value as well;
4. Public institutions rebuilt on the strong solidarity of our society and its communities.

Our Mission: We will start to make these changes first in ourselves—by doing the right things, by giving value to excellence and integrity and rejecting mediocrity and dishonesty, and by giving priority to others over ourselves. We will make

these changes across many aspects of our national life.

A Commitment to Transformational Leadership:

1. From a President who tolerates corruption to a President who is the nation's first and most determined fighter of corruption.
2. From a government that merely conjures economic growth statistics that our people know to be unreal to a government that prioritizes jobs that empower the people and provide them with opportunities to rise above poverty.
3. From relegating education to just one of many concerns to making education the central strategy for investing in our people, reducing poverty and building national competitiveness.
4. From treating health as just another area for political patronage to recognizing the

advancement and protection of public health, which includes responsible parenthood, as key measures of good governance.

5. From justice that money and connections can buy to a truly impartial system of institutions that deliver equal justice to rich or poor.

Economy

6. From government policies influenced by well-connected private interests to a leadership that executes all the laws of the land with impartiality and decisiveness.
7. From treating the rural economy as just a source of problems, to recognizing farms and rural enterprises as vital to achieving food security and more equitable economic growth, worthy of re-investment for sustained productivity.
8. From government anti-poverty programs that instill a dole-out mentality to well-considered programs that build capacity and create opportunity among the poor and the marginalized in the country.
9. From a government that dampens private initiative and enterprise to a government that creates conditions conducive to the growth and competitiveness of private businesses, big, medium and small.

10. From a government that treats its people as an export commodity and a means to earn foreign exchange, disregarding the social cost to Filipino families to a government that creates jobs at home, so that working abroad will be a choice rather than a necessity; and when its citizens do choose to become OFWs, their welfare and protection will still be the government's priority.

Government Service

11. From Presidential appointees chosen mainly out of political accommodation to discerning selection based on integrity, competence and performance in serving the public good.
12. From demoralized but dedicated civil servants, military and police personnel destined for failure and frustration due to inadequate operational support to professional, motivated and energized bureaucracies with adequate means to perform their public service missions.

Gender Equality

13. From a lack of concern for gender disparities and shortfalls, to the promotion of equal gender opportunity in all spheres of public policies and programs.

Peace & Order

14. From a disjointed, short-sighted Mindanao policy that merely reacts to events and incidents to one that seeks a broadly supported just peace and will redress decades of neglect of the Moro and other peoples of Mindanao.

Philippine Environment

15. From allowing environmental blight to spoil our cities, where both the rich and the poor bear

with congestion and urban decay to planning alternative, inclusive urban development where people of varying income levels are integrated in productive, healthy and safe communities.

16. From a government obsessed with exploiting the country for immediate gains to the detriment of its environment to a government that will encourage sustainable use of resources to benefit the present and future generations.

This platform is a commitment to change that Filipinos can depend on. With trust in their leaders, everyone can work and build a greater future together.

Source: <http://noypipol.wordpress.com/2009/11/28/noynoy-aquino-platform/>

I. Introduction

The rise to the presidency of President Benigno Aquino III has created high expectations among Filipinos longing for good governance (57%), better condition of the national economy (52%) and the improvement in the quality of life (49%) based on the Social Weather Station (SWS) survey conducted in May 2010.¹

Simply put, the President's economic vision can be condensed into four words: ***"A Philippines that Works"***² by pushing for a just government with lower tax rates for all and plugging leaks in the tax collection system to revitalize the nation's economy.³ He enjoined every Filipino to pursue the path of righteousness towards corrupt-free Philippines. ***"We will not let corruption consume our people's future. We will strive to weed it out of government in every way we can."*** PNoy said with conviction.⁴

After three years in public office, now is the opportune time to determine whether the Aquino administration has been true to its promise of making a difference to the lives of Filipinos particularly, the poor. Are we heading towards economic progress and social

development? Many are still wondering whether PNoy's Social Contract with the Filipino people has brought us closer to the goals of:

- a) fighting corruption practices to restore public trust and business confidence towards a sustainable economy;
- b) reducing poverty and inequality;
- c) creating more regular jobs;
- d) improving maternal health, childcare and the general well being of Filipinos;
- e) enforcing the rule of law equally while, ensuring national sovereignty in the country; and
- f) protecting the integrity of Philippine environment.



II. Brief Profile of the Philippines

1. Situated in Southeast Asia, the Philippine Republic has a total population of 96.8M (as of March 2013)⁵ It is ranked as the 12th most populated country in the world today and considered as the largest Catholic country in Asia.⁶ The country is also a huge exporter of labor and will continue to be so. In 2030, the population of the Philippines will reach 131.5M.⁷
2. Geographically, the Philippines can be divided into three regions, namely *Luzon*, *Visayas* and *Mindanao*. Comprising of 7,107 islands, the country's coastline is the fifth longest in the world spanning 36,289 kilometers.⁸ It has vast natural resources that are good sources of food, water, shelter and livelihood for its rapidly growing populace. The Philippines belongs to the 18 mega-biodiversity countries in the world that claims 2/3 of the Earth's biological resources and about 70-80% of the world's plant and animal species due to its geographical isolation, diverse habitats and high rates of endemism.⁹ Sadly, the country also belongs to the top 25 biodiversity hot spots in the world with a high percentage of its plants, animals and other endemic species threatened by extinction in the ecosystems.¹⁰
3. The Philippine Republic is a presidential form of government, which has three independent yet co-equal branches, namely Executive (*the law-enforcing body*), Legislative (*the law-making body*) and Judiciary (*the law-implementing body*). The **Executive** branch consists of the President and the Vice-President, elected by direct popular votes and they serve for a six-year term. The President

appoints his Cabinet to help him administer the functions of various national government agencies. The **Legislative** consists of the Upper House (the Senate) and the Lower House (the House of Representatives). The Senate President is the head of the Upper House while the Lower House Speaker leads the Congress. The **Judiciary** branch consists of the systems of courts, with the Supreme Court as the highest and headed by the Chief Justice.¹¹

4. The Philippines has a market-based mixed economy, which implies that the national economy is regulated by the State and supported by the business sector along with other stakeholders. It is the 45th largest economy in the world today, 12th in Asia and 4th in South East Asia with a Gross Domestic Product of \$416.721B (IMF, 2012 est.)¹²

III. Philippine National Economy

The Philippine Economy is growing

5. Despite the lingering crisis in the United States and Europe, the Philippine economy remains relatively resilient with an impressive 7.8% economic growth in the first quarter of 2013. According to Dr. Cielito Habito, the Philippines is now considered as the fastest growing economy in Asia beating China's first quarter growth. The 7.8% growth in gross domestic product (GDP) was proudly homegrown driven by construction and manufacturing industry, supported by financial intermediation and trade.¹³

6. Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Artemio Balisacan said,

*"Impressive performance of these sectors prove that the country is already reaping the benefits of strengthening priority sectors that are potential growth drivers and employment generators. Business confidence and consumer optimism fuelled this growth, putting to rest doubts cast on the 2012 figures as being due to base effects only."*¹⁴

7. Basically, the three major sectors of the Philippine economy consist of the services, agriculture and industry. In recent years, however, the best performing sectors are the services and financial sector boosted by:



(a) OFW dollar remittances that reached a record high of \$1.93B in cash last October 2012 as global demand for Filipino workers remained strong; and

- (b) the inflow of portfolio investments to the country amounting to \$1.01B in November 2012, the highest net inflow for over two years.¹⁵
8. The positive economic outlook may be attributed to the Aquino administration's efforts in instituting good governance to restore public trust and business confidence that reinvigorated our Philippine national economy. In his 3rd State of the Nation Address (SONA), PNoy said that *"prudent spending has allowed us to plug the leaks in the system, and improving tax collection has increased revenues. We have fixed the system by which we build roads, bridges, and buildings — they now go where they are truly needed. Our roads are properly paved; products, services, and people reach their destination quickly and with greater ease. Because of good governance in agriculture, food production has increased, prices don't fluctuate, wages are stable and our economy is stronger. A resilient and dynamic economy resting on the foundations of good governance is the best defense against global uncertainty. We have been dismantling the obstacles to progress for two years, and now, our success can*
- only be limited by how hard we are willing to work for it."*¹⁶
9. *"So what was once regarded as the sick man of Asia now brims with vitality"* PNoy said and compared to previous administrations, *"We were once the debtors but now, we are the creditors. Before we had to beg for investments until recently, investors such as Japanese and British banker flock to us looking for business opportunities."*¹⁷
10. Indeed, the World Bank and Standard & Poor's (S&P) gave positive growth forecasts and credit rating for the Philippine economy from "stable" to "positive" owing to favorable business climate in the country as evidenced by the ability of the present administration to implement vital reforms such as prudent economic policies, improving internal revenue collection, declining reliance on borrowings from foreign creditors, falling debt burden while maintaining political stability in the Asian region.¹⁸ The Philippines is now considered as a rising star to record one of the fastest growth rates in the world. The Philippines is likely to grow between 6.5 to 7% this year and within the same range next year.¹⁹

***"So what was once regarded as
the sick man of Asia now brims
with vitality"***

Persistence of Poverty, Hunger and Unemployment

11. Yet in spite of economic growth, poverty incidence virtually remains unchanged over the past six years as indicated by 28.8% in 2006, 28.6% in 2009 and 27.9% in the first semester of 2012 based on the study of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB). The study revealed that poverty incidence was highest in Mindanao and lowest in the National Capital Region as well as in Regions III and IV. Regions where poverty incidence has gone down are Caraga and Region I respectively.²⁰
12. Furthermore, the five poorest provinces are Lanao del Sur, Apayao, Eastern Samar, Maguindanao and Zamboanga del Norte. By region, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Region 12, Region 8, Region 9 and Region 10 have consistently posted the highest family poverty incidence.²¹
13. It appears that the proclaimed economic growth has not produced sufficient jobs and savings. Many workers are deprived of the opportunity to earn enough due to widespread unemployment and underemployment especially in the agriculture sector. The direct result is poverty and hunger since the poor could no longer afford to buy basic needs due to continuing price hike. The Filipino poor are devoid of basic necessities and they have limited access to social services and control over productive assets to escape poverty.
14. According to Ms. Aurea Miclat-Teves, convener of National Food Coalition, hunger incidence in the Philippines is close to 1:6, worse than the global average ratio of 1:8 where 870M people worldwide do not have sufficient food to eat. Citing data from the Food and Agriculture Organization, Ms. Teves shared that, *"One in every six Filipinos is experiencing daily the world's number one*



health risk – hunger. Today, there are 16M undernourished persons in the Philippines.²²



15. Jose Ramon Albert, NSCB Secretary General, calculated that a family of five would need a monthly income of at least Php 7,821 to survive and meet both food and non-food needs such as clothing, housing, transportation, health, education, among others.²³
16. Norio Usui, senior country economist for the Asian Development Bank, said *“the benefits of strong economic growth have not spilled over to the people because they still cannot find a job.”* The government must solve the problem of jobless growth to reduce poverty. Part of the solution is to strengthen the weak industrial base so that jobs will be available not only to the highly educated college graduates, but also to high school graduates. He observed that the Philippines’ economic model is highly dependent on domestic consumption, strong remittances from its large overseas workforce and the business process outsourcing industry, which employs college graduates.²⁴
17. Joel Rocamora, head of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, estimated that three out of every five Filipinos

are highly dependent on agriculture. *“As such, increasing incomes in agriculture will make a big dent in addressing the poverty problem,”* he said and even proposed of tapping the P70B on coco levy funds parked in banks to spur farmers’ production.²⁵

18. Balisacan said in a press interview that the January 2013 jobless rate stood at 7.1% with a further 20.9% underemployed or working fewer than 40 hours a week. He estimated that about 41.8% of the underemployed are in the farming sector. He also added that *“If the problem of visible under employment in agriculture is addressed, then income of farmers would increase, poverty incidence would decrease and we would not be compromising food security.”*²⁶
19. Without employment opportunities, many Filipinos seek jobs elsewhere. Every day, 4,400 OFWs are leaving the country to sacrifice for their families in search for better paying jobs, unmindful of racial discrimination and exploitation against abusive employers.²⁷



-<http://larrycprice.com/philippines-gold-child-labor/>

They are also vulnerable to calamities such as earthquakes and tsunami that hit Japan and New Zealand as well as the civil strife in various parts of the Middle East North Africa Region particularly in Libya, where we saw the exodus of more than 6,000 repatriated OFWs in April 2011.²⁸

20. The absence of fathers and/or mothers often increases the likelihood that youngsters will grow up without proper formation and moral guidance especially those parents working abroad. The increasing mobility of family members puts enormous stress on marriages and the traditional family structure. Sometimes, the outcome is broken family.²⁹

21. Poverty and hunger creates so much pressure requiring both parents to work for a family to survive. In most cases, even children are forced to work as child laborers defined by the Department of Employment and Labor (DOLE) as *“any work performed by a child that subjects the child to economic exploitation or that is likely to be hazardous for the child or that interferes with the child’s education, or that is harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development”*³⁰

22. The 2011 Survey on Children (SOC) revealed that 5.4M children whose age belongs to 5 to 17 years old are working to help their families. Of which, 58.4% or an estimated 3.2M are child laborers considered economically active and exposed to hazardous environment. In every ten working children, there are six boys and four girls. By age, 46.7% of the working children are 15 to 17 years old; 45.1% are working children from 10 to 14 years old; and 8.2% represents children from 5 to 9 years of age.³¹

23. Based on the Labor Force Survey, the total number of adult persons employed in April 2012 was 37.8M consisting of services sector (51.4%) as the largest group, followed by agricultural sector (33%) and

the industry sector (15.6%). Basically, employed workers can be classified into full time workers (55.1%) and part-time workers (42.8%) who work less than 40 hours per week. They are the employed persons willing to have additional working hours in their present work to increase their meager income.³²

24. Although various economic reform programs were instituted by the Aquino government to generate more jobs in three specific sectors: tourism, agriculture and infrastructure, more than 11M Filipinos are jobless, according to SWS and IBON Foundation survey results on the first quarter of 2013. The Philippines has an official unemployment rate of 7% for 2012.³³

25. IBON stressed that jobs situation has worsened because the Aquino administration continued the failed economic policies of past administrations. In 2012, the number of unemployed Filipinos has reached 4.4M while underemployed was pegged at 7.5M for a total

of 11.9M unemployed and underemployed workers.³⁴

26. Balisacan clarified in a press interview that an annual tracking of poverty incidence will now be done to allow the government makes the necessary tactical solutions or short-term changes in its Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016. He said, *“Although this first semester result on poverty incidence is not the dramatic result we wanted, we remain hopeful that, with the timely measures we are now implementing, the next rounds of poverty statistics will give much better results that will reflect the government’s massive investment in human development and poverty reduction, which understandably needs time to take full effect.”*³⁵

27. Balisacan stressed that the problem of poverty requires a comprehensive, “multi-pronged and multi-sectoral solution” involving many stakeholders. As part of economic management team under PNoy administration, He said that *“We are making use of the current effort to update the Philippine Development Plan to effect this solution.”*³⁶

IV. Philippine National Budget for 2013

28. On July 24, 2012, President Aquino presented the 2013 national budget to Congress amounting to P2.006.1 trillion. The national budget is 10.5% higher than the P1.816-trillion national budget for 2012. The President described the budget as “results-focused budget” driven towards the delivery of direct and substantial benefits to the people, particularly the poorest and most marginalized. His administration will ensure not just the immediate release of the funds but a transparent government spending. During the 15th Congress of the Philippines, the President stated:³⁷

“This Budget is the national government’s blueprint of expenditures and sources of financing for the year 2013. It spells out the costs of government’s plans and operations for the entire fiscal year. More than that, however, crafted by a government that firmly believes that its sole purpose is to serve its true bosses—the Filipino people—this

budget is the embodiment of our people’s collective hopes and desires.

These past two years, we have remained conscious of the budget’s role in advancing our national agenda; and we have achieved historic feats. In 2011 and 2012, the men and women of this Congress acted with diligence and urgency in enacting the National Budgets. In fact, the General Appropriations Act of 2012 was the earliest enacted budget since our countrymen restored true democracy in 1986. For this, and for your support to our development agenda as funded by those budgets, I congratulate and thank you.

As we move forward along the straight and righteous path, we have continuously planted and nurtured the seeds of reform with the annual Budgets enacted under this Administration. We have prioritized the people’s most urgent needs in order to genuinely and

efficiently address poverty and inequality. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that public funds are managed judiciously and with minimum waste. We have fostered a new culture of openness, transparency, and participation in the budget process, and throughout the bureaucracy. Using the Budget, we have successfully worked to reinforce the foundations on which our public institutions are built—we have made them less prone to corruption, more results-driven, and, ultimately, more deserving of our bosses' trust."

29. PNoy assured the public of his administration's greater and deeper commitment to the Social Contract which has been fleshed out in the Philippine Development Plan from 2011-2016. By virtue of Executive

Order No.43, the 5 Key Results Areas of the Social Contract are concretized, viz:³⁸

- 1) **Transparent, Accountable, and Participatory Governance;**
- 2) **Poverty Reduction and Empowerment of the Poor and Vulnerable;**
- 3) **Rapid, Inclusive, and Sustained Economic Growth;**
- 4) **Just and Lasting Peace and the Rule of Law; and**
- 5) **Integrity of the Environment and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.**

30. By Sector. The biggest share of 34.8 percent is allocated for Social Services, while Economic Services accounts for the second biggest at 25.5 percent. Meanwhile, the share of the Debt Burden on the budget, at 16.6 percent, has decreased from 18.3 percent (see Table 1)

Table 1. The 2013 Philippine National Budget by Sector

Particulars	Levels (Php Billion)		Percent Share		Growth
	2012	2013	2012	2013	
Social Services	613.4	698.8	33.8	34.8	13.9
Economic Services	439.0	511.1	24.2	25.5	16.4
General Public Services	320.3	346.1	17.6	17.3	8.0
Debt Service	333.1	333.9	18.3	16.6	0.2
Defense	87.2	89.7	4.6	4.5	2.9
Net Lending	23.0	26.5	1.3	1.3	15.2
Total	1,816.0	2,006.1	100.0	100.0	10.5

“The President described the budget as “results-focused budget” driven towards the delivery of direct and substantial benefits to the people, particularly the poorest and most marginalized.”

31. Essentially, the government has allocated P698.8B for social services, which supports the goal of reducing poverty to 16.6% by 2016. This will support resource gaps in basic education and improve health insurance coverage of 5.2M poor households under the National Health Insurance Program, as well as affordable housing for informal settlers and coverage of 3.8M indigent households under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).³⁹
32. For Rapid, Inclusive, and Sustained Economic Growth, concerned government agencies will be pushing forward tourism development; food self-sufficiency; electrification, road and transportation upgrades; and the promotion of small and medium scale industries. PNoy said; *“We are also laying down the groundwork to accelerate our Public-Private Partnership program with regard to strategic infrastructures.”*⁴⁰
33. According to PNoy, the Budget has been designed to enable public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the delivery of social services. To entice the greater participation of the private sector in government’s implementation of poverty reduction programs, this Budget packages the procurement of infrastructure for social services – classrooms and other educational facilities, rural health facilities, hospitals, and others – under Build-Transfer and Build-Lease-Transfer arrangements. Indeed, the private sector is a potent force that should be tapped in our efforts to reduce poverty and improve human development outcomes.⁴¹

V. The Aquino Administration

A. Path Through Effective and Honest Governance


34. In his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 26, 2010, PNoy revealed to the public that the government's budget deficit has reached Php196.7 billion. He said that the Arroyo administration has long strayed to the crooked path, which kept secret to the public the true state of the nation. He unveiled to the Filipinos how a million-worth of imported rice were rotten in the NFA warehouse amid the hunger of 4M Filipinos; how NAPOCOR was instructed to sell electricity at a low price for electoral gains; and how top executives under MWSS and other Government Owned Controlled Corporations (GOCC) have lavishly rewarded themselves. Conversely, Pres. Aquino vowed to follow the path of righteousness for poverty alleviation, popular democracy and good governance.⁴²

B. Accomplishments of PNoy Administration

35. After more than three years in public office, the President has restored the public trust and business confidence to revitalize the nation's economy. Concretely, the Aquino administration has instituted vital economic and political reforms, which is founded on good governance principles. Studying closely his 1st, 2nd and 3rd SONA, PNoy reported to the Filipino people the following accomplishments of his administration: ^[43] ^[44] ^[45]

35.1. Forming PNOY Team members who are trustworthy and with proven track record in private and public service. The President has ensured quality appointments of his cabinet members to help him administer the various departments with specific functions headed by secretaries (see *Table 1*)

Table 1.Cabinet Members of PNoy (as of May 15, 2013)

<div> CABINET MEMBERS <small>as of May 15, 2013</small>  </div>		
INCUMBENT SECRETARIES	DEPARTMENT	IN OFFICE SINCE
1.Virgilio R. De Los Reyes	Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)	June 30, 2010
2. Proceso J. Alcalá	Department of Agriculture (DA)	June 30, 2010
3. Florencio B. Abad	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)	June 30, 2010
4. Br. Armin Luistro FSC	Department of Education (DepEd)	June 30, 2010
5. Carlos Jericho L. Petilla	Department of Energy (DOE)	November 5, 2012
6. Ramon J.P. Paje	Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR)	June 30, 2010
7. Cesar Purisima	Department of Finance (DOF)	June 30, 2010
8. Albert F. del Rosario	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	February 23, 2011
9. Dr. Enrique T. Ona	Department of Health (DOH)	June 30, 2010
10. Mar Roxas	Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)	August 31, 2010
11. Leila De Lima	Department of Justice (DOJ)	June 30, 2010
12. Rosalinda Baldoz	Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	June 30, 2010
13. Voltaire T. Gazmin	Department of National Defense (DND)	June 30, 2010
14. Rogelio L. Singson	Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)	June 30, 2010
15. Engr. Marlo G. Montejó	Department of Science and Technology (DOST)	June 30, 2010
16. Corazon Soliman	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	June 30, 2010
17. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr.	Department of Tourism (DOT)	September 2, 2011
18. Gregory L. Domingo	Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)	June 30, 2010
19. Joseph Emilio Abaya	Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)	October 18, 2012

35.2. Managing budget deficit.

The economic team of PNoy has managed to mobilize the internal and external resources in order to address the budget deficit of

Php196.7B. Internally, the Aquino administration has focused on (a) better tax collection and efficient administration to increase revenues, (b)

“the PPP’s will support our nation’s infrastructure development where investments will yield a multiplier effect”

fiscal discipline to reduce debts, and (c) prudent and rationalized spending of public funds consistent with the principle of zero-based budgeting. Two important bills worth mentioning in this section are the passage of Fiscal Responsibility Bill that reduces foreign debts and *“An Act Restructuring the Excise Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco*, that allows the government to increase its internal revenue collection.

Basically, the bedrock principle of zero-based budgeting is that the taxes paid by the people will be spent for the people. In this light, the President has directed the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and all departments to evaluate existing government programs. Based on the Commission on Audit (COA) reports and other similar studies, government programs that did not perform well over the years were redesigned, overhauled or terminated. As such, the Department of

Education’s Food for School Program was transferred to DSWD; the DA’s Input Subsidies that only benefited the rich and the *Kalayaan Barangay* Program were both terminated. It is wise to rationalize spending of government-owned and/or controlled corporations. To stop the bleeding of government funds due to inefficiencies of the National Food Authority (NFA), the government has reduced rice importation; limit the selling of low-priced rice to the poorest of the poor; and push for a Congressional amendment of the NFA Charter to make possible the separation of its proprietary.

In addition, the savings prudently generated from these budget cuts were re-channeled to existing programs performing well like the DSWD’s CCT program, the DepEd’s Educational Service Contracting and the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

Similarly, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has been implementing a Performance Challenge Fund to align local

programs with the priority projects of the national government. This way, it would be easier to rationalize the programs and projects of government. It will also ensure that the local government units (LGUs) comply with the requirements under the *Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2010* along with the Ecological Act of 2000. The government has allocated public funds for 17 priority provinces classified as 3rd to 5th class situated in 27 cities (3rd to 5th class also) and 243 municipalities (5th and 6th class).

Externally, the government is adopting Public-Private Partnerships to attract both local and foreign investors. According to PNoy, the PPP's will support our nation's infrastructure development where investments will yield a multiplier effect. Since 2011, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has been conducting feasibility studies on public-private partnership for its light rail, airport projects and its urban transport program for urban cities. The Department of Works

and Highways (DPWH) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) are doing the same thing for roads and flood control projects. It is hoped that the responsible use of the PPP as a strategy of funding traditional public works and public services projects will reduce contingent liabilities of government.

Equally important is the strong international support and cooperation received by the Aquino administration which allowed the Philippine government to receive development grants and technical assistance from the following international institutions: ⁴⁶

- a) \$59M grant from WB to continue the KALAHI-CIDSS program of DWSD;
- b) \$434M grant from Millennium Corporation to finance poverty alleviation, road construction and tax administration projects and social services;
- c) Php20B as Japan's first ODA commitment with corresponding counterpart from the Philippine government; and

d) \$2.4B in investment pledges, which translate to a potential 43,650 new jobs in the next three years.

Needless to say, there are other donor institutions helping the state to alleviate poverty and protect our environment.

35.3. Fighting and reducing corruption practices. According to Transparency International, corruption consumes 20% of the total national budget of the Philippine government. Means of corruption varies from bribery, graft, embezzlement, under the table and backdoor deals, nepotism to political patronage. Truly, corruption eats up a significant portion of the GNP and National Budget. It even exceeds the country's foreign debts and robs much needed resources from frontline service departments.⁴⁷

To achieve the path through honest and effective governance

requires strong political will of the President and fully supported by the Filipino people. True to his promise, PNoy has exposed the North Rail contract where fleets of 19 train sets were reduced to three and the number of stations, from five to two. He also cited the Government Owned Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) handing out unwarranted bonuses despite the losses already suffered by their agencies. He also exposed to the public the billions of pesos wasted by PAGCOR on coffee anomaly; the AFP



“Truly, corruption eats up a significant portion of the GNP and National Budget. It even exceeds the country’s foreign debts and robs much needed resources from frontline service departments.”

tradition of PABAON to retiring Generals and high ranking military officials; and the anomalous corrupt practices in the PNP, which involved ignoring the need to arm the remaining 45% of our police force, just to collect kickbacks on rundown helicopters purchased at brand-new prices.⁴⁸

During his 3rd SONA, PNoy further exposed the ghost story in ARMM which is a microcosm of a bigger social reality:

“Fifty-five ghost entries have been taken off the payroll. The ghost story in ARMM, Mindanao where we had ghost students walking to ghost schools on ghost roads, to learn from ghost teachers. Some of the apparitions that haunted OIC Governor Mujiv Hataman: Four schools found with ghost students; we are also investigating the teachers whose names do not appear in the list of the Professional Regulation Commission, as well as the government workers not listed in the plantilla.. The previous scheme of regaveling roads again and again just to earn money has been outlawed. To avoid abuse, we have ended cash advances for agen-

cies. Now, the souls of the ghosts in voters lists can rest in peace.

What we have replaced these phantoms with: real housing, bridges, and learning centers for Badjaos in Basilan. Community-based hatcheries, nets, materials to grow seaweeds, and seedlings that have benefited 2,588 fishermen. Certified seeds, gabi seedlings, cassava, rubber, and trees that are bearing fruit for 145,121 farmers. And this is only the beginning. Php183M has been set aside for the fire stations; 515 million pesos for clean drinking water; Php551.9M for health-care equipment; 691.9 million pesos for daycare centers; and Php2.85B for the roads and bridges across the region. These are just some of the things that will be afforded by the aggregate Php8.59B the national government has granted the ARMM. Also, allow me to clarify: this does not include the yearly support that they receive, which in 2012 reached Php11.7B.”

- 35.4. Putting in place credible transparency and accountability mechanisms.** In principle, it is easier to hold government and its officials accountable for the use of public funds if there are

sufficient, understandable and accessible data in which the civil society organizations (CSOs) and the general public can assess official performance. Hence, there is now a new provision mandating the publications in government websites of information concerning the project status, list of project beneficiaries and procurement plans of major programs/projects. The main objective is to make all government officials be held accountable for public funds entrusted to them.

For this reason, PNoy is requiring all government line agencies to publish on their respective websites the status of project implementation and fund utilization. Operationally, it implies putting the entire corpus of government rules and regulations on line by means of the creation of the Official Gazette (i.e., www.gov.ph). For instance, the Department of Finance (DOF) launched a website dubbed as “Perang Bayan” at <http://www.perangbayan.com> to solicit public support on the government’s fight against corruption particularly, providing a venue to air observations

and solutions on public fund misuse. The CSOs and the private sector are now encouraged to actively participate in monitoring the government’s undertakings to ensure that public funds are judiciously spent and fully utilized.

35.6. Enforcing the rule of law equally. The Judiciary is responsible for upholding the rule of law and providing swift and equal justice for all. The on-going trial of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona are good signs that the government is serious in seeking justice and that nobody is above the law. Funds were allocated for the creation of additional prosecutor positions to speed up the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has been implementing an Alternative Dispute Resolution Program along with its Witness Protection Program to fully protect at least 640 witnesses and whistleblowers under its custody.

35.7. Allocating resources in favor of the poor and the vulnerable.

On August 24, 2010, Pres. Benigno Aquino III submitted to the Congress the proposed National Budget of Php1.645 trillion for 2011 which mirrors the present administration's commitment to lift the nation from abject poverty through honest and effective governance. The proposed budget focused where they are most needed. It is 6.8% higher than the 2010 budget of Php1.540 trillion.⁴⁹ Pnoy said:

"This is the first financial blueprint of my Administration. It has been formulated to turn our vision for social reform into a tangible reality for our fellow citizens. The Filipino people have placed on our shoulder the responsibility to make their government more responsive to their needs and eliminate waste... When I accepted our people's call for me to run for office, I point out that the presidency is about the efficient allocation of resources. The call of our times is to reform: to revitalize our economy

while leaving no sector behind."

Budget for social services were increased to mitigate critical gaps in poverty alleviation programs, job creation, education, health, social welfare and housing. This is to ensure that those who have less in life will be given equal opportunities to build a brighter future. ^{[53] [54]}

On Poverty Alleviation. One of the Aquino administration's flagship program in seeking to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is the "*Pantawid Pampamilyang Pilipino Program*" or simply, 4Ps. It is a national poverty-reduction and social-development strategy that provides conditional cash grants to extremely poor households in order to improve their health, nutrition and access to education, particularly for children aged 0 – 14 years old.

When PNoy assumed office, there were 760,357 household-beneficiaries of the 4Ps. In February 2013, PNoy reported that 3M household beneficiaries were reached by the 4Ps out of the estimated 4.7M poor households in the country being identified under the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) of the DSWD.

However, the 4Ps had received mixed criticisms since its inception.

Some called the program as a dole out for the poor families. Others expressed their concern that its huge budget could be a source for corruption. In fact, 37 lawmakers signed a manifesto as early as October 2010 opposing the Php21.9B budget for the 4Ps. Instead, they proposed to realign its budget for the construction of additional schools, hospitals, health centers, housing programs and agriculture which will address the needs of the poor.⁵⁰

PNoy defended the 4Ps program by comparing it to a lifesaver device thrown into the sea to save a drowning man. Admittedly, the program is not the solution to poverty but just meant to ease the suffering of the poor families while waiting for structural reforms to take place and benefit the majority of Filipinos. But still it has positive impact on health, nutrition education based on Asian Development Bank (ADB) study.⁵¹

The DSWD clarified that the program was not totally a dole-out approach but a development program that invests in human capital. The beneficiaries must still meet the requirements before they could receive the cash grants. By following the criteria, the program enhances the role of the parents

by helping them fulfill their duties and responsibilities towards their children.⁵²

According to Secretary Soliman, the DSWD is converging its three core programs to enhance its poverty reduction programs, namely:

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)

A human development program of the national government that provides conditional cash grants to extremely poor households- for healthcare, improve nutrition, family development, and the education of children particularly those aged 0-14

Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI-CIDSS)

A Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS)- A community driven development

Self-Employment Assistance Kaunlaran (SEA-K)

A livelihood and capability building program aimed at enhancing the socio-economic skills of poor families towards establishing and managing sustainable community based credit organizations for entrepreneurial development.

Project Outcome of CCT

1,672,977

mothers are now getting regular check-ups

1,672,814

children have been vaccinated against diarrhea, polio, measles, and various other diseases

4.57 M

students no longer need to miss school because of poverty

85%

of Filipinos are now enrolled in Philhealth and could really avail its array of benefits and services

On Job Creation. There are about a million new entrants to the job market each year. According to PNoy, his administration will prioritize jobs that empower the people, not just to put food on the table but to provide them with opportunities to rise above poverty. The jobs produced by the Aquino administration within the past two years totalled almost 3.1M.

The Aquino administration through the DOLE, DTI and TESDA has strengthened job-generating efforts through the following programs:⁵³



According to PNoy, only five thousand people were employed in the BPO industry in 2005. Overtime, the number of persons employed

grew to 638,000 in 2011 where the industry contributed \$11B to our national economy. By 2016, it is projected to be bringing in \$25B to our economy. PNoy estimated that for the BPO industry alone, it will be employing 1.3M Filipinos excluding 3.2M taxi drivers, baristas, corner stores, canteens, and other jobs that will benefit from the indirect jobs the BPO industry will create. The BPO facilities can be found in Metro Manila and Cebu City although other regional areas such as *Baguio City, Bacolod City, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban City, Clark Base in Angeles City, Dagupan City, Davao City, Dumaguete City, Lipa City, Iloilo City and Legazpi City* are now being developed for offshore operations.

Meanwhile, the government started implementing Performance-Based Incentives for its employees in which bonuses are based on their agency's abilities to meet their annual targets effective 2013. Incentives may reach up to Php35,000 depending on how well they do their jobs apart from across-the-board Christmas bonus.

A large portion of job generation strategy is building sufficient infrastructure to facilitate the movement of goods and services. It will also support our booming tourism industry. The government has already constructed a terminal in Caticlan to benefit the local residents and tourists in Boracay. Plans are underway to improve infrastructure in the New Bohol

Airport in *Panglao*, New Legaspi Airport in *Daraga*, Albay and Laguindingan Airport in *Misamis Oriental*. There are efforts to upgrade our international airports in *Mactan*, *Cebu*, *Tacloban* and *Puerto Princesa Airport in Palawan* to receive more passengers while remodeling the airports in *Butuan*, *Cotabato*, *Dipolog*, *Pagadian*, *Tawi-Tawi*, *Southern Leyte*, and *San Vicente, Palawan*.

To address the traffic congestion in Metro Manila, the government is fully supporting the implementation of LRT Lines in North and South Extension Projects. Infrastructure development is intertwined with the growth of booming tourism industry where the total tourist volume has reached 3.65M from Jan to May 2010.

On Quality and Affordable Education. PNoy is giving education as its top priority and that's why the DepEd has been receiving the highest budgetary allocations among all agencies from Php238.8B (2010) to Php292.7B (2013). So far, this is the largest budget for the education sector intended for the construction of 66,800 classrooms, 2,573,212 chairs and the purchase of 61.7 million textbooks to achieve one-to-one ratio of books to students. The DepEd is hiring 61,000 teachers for s/y 2013 because the universal objective of giving children quality education can be achieved if they have highly motivated and well trained teachers. The President believes that the universal objective



<http://truthfrequencynews.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/la-heb-measles-outbreak-20120419-001.jpg>

of giving children quality education can be achieved if they have highly motivated and well trained teachers. Children should be given better quality textbooks too. Given strong educational foundation, this would ensure that our Philippine labor force is competent, well trained and globally competitive.

DepEd Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC confirmed that the resource gap in the country's public school system is so huge and one of the creative ways of enjoining private sector's participation in public education is through **Adopt-A-School Program**.⁵⁴

DepEd, in partnership with the private sector and other government agencies, continues to build more classrooms and rehabilitating its existing facilities. In fact, over 27,000 new classrooms were

constructed since June 2010. Br. Luistro assured the public that the DepEd is on track in achieving zero-backlog in seats and textbooks by the end of this school year. The target is to build over 40,000 more classrooms next year.⁵⁵

Meanwhile, the School-based Feeding Program (SBFP) of DepEd has served 42,000 undernourished children aimed at improving their health conditions and school performance. According to DepEd Secretary Luistro, the feeding program, which was being implemented since October 2012 up to March 2013, provided nutritious meals to selected pupils suffering from severe malnutrition for 100 to 120 feeding days. *“At the end of the day, we want these target school children to improve their classroom attendance to up to 100% by improving their health and nutritional status,”* Luistro added.⁵⁶

Equally important is the enactment of the *Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2012* that would give access to two more years of free basic education for Filipinos, while enabling holistic development and readiness for different paths. Basically, the K-12 Basic Education Program prescribe an enhanced system that include one year of Kindergarten, 6 years of elementary education, and 6 years of secondary education consisting of 4 years of Junior High School and two years of Senior High School. It aims to develop lifelong learners who will be prepared for higher education,

employment, entrepreneurship and equip them with middle-level skills.

On Promoting Maternal Health and Child Care Development. The Department of Health (DOH) is implementing its Expanded Immunization Program to meet the target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of reducing infant/child mortality as well as maternal mortality. To achieve this end, the government supported the passage and implementation of the Cheaper Medicine Act. The Department has already started upgrading health facilities nationwide for the establishment of 1,278 Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and Newborn Care Facilities; the construction of potable water system; and the construction of 3,931 *Botika ng Barangay* to provide low-cost and affordable medicines. Each unit has a Php25,000 monthly worth of medicines especially intended for tuberculosis cases and other diseases like malaria, schistosomiasis, leprosy, filariasis, rabies, etc.

On Better Health Services. The number of Filipinos with no access to government health services remains a grave concern. Before, four out of ten Filipinos have never seen a health professional in their entire lifetime. While six out of ten Filipinos die without being attended to by health professionals.

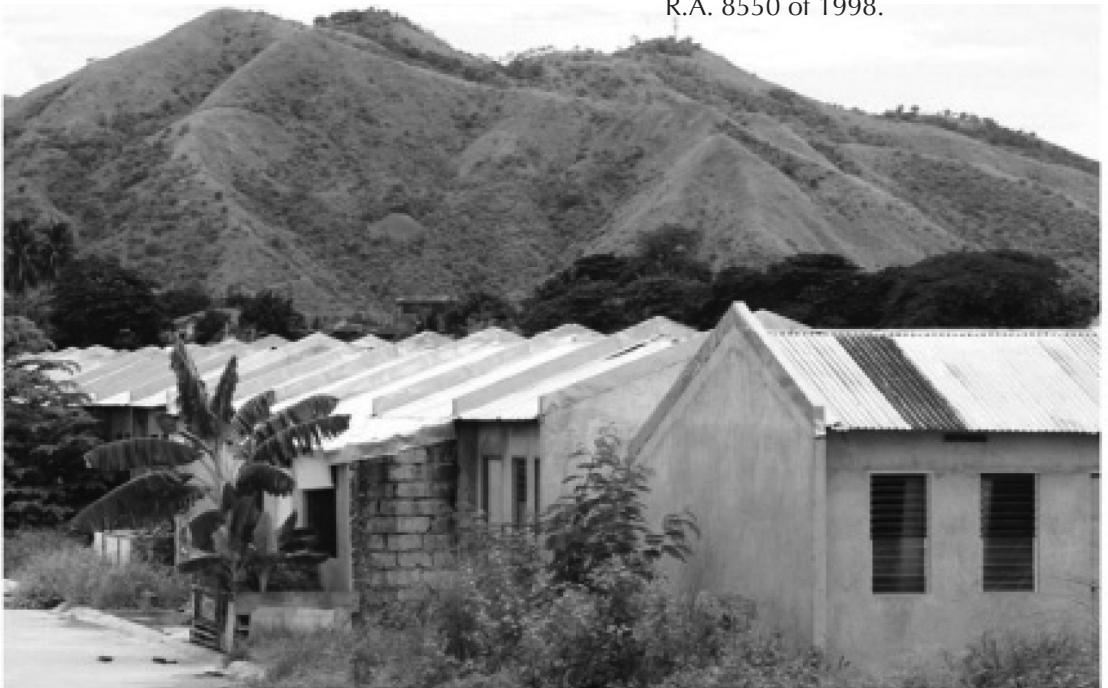
Due to efficient targeting, 30,801 nurses and health professionals assisted ably by over 11,000 community health workers were

deployed to remote areas where they were most needed. In fact, the government had sent health professionals to 1,021 localities covered by the 4Ps and to the 609 poorest cities and municipalities, as identified by National Anti-Poverty Commission.

On Social and Asset Reform Agenda. The government committed to implement the Social and Asset Reform Agenda which is critical to achieve a broad-based socio-economic development for the benefit of urban poor, farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples and women.

In the Philippines, there are four major thrusts being pursued by the government, namely:

- 1) Urban land reform as embodied in the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) or R.A.7279 of 1992;
- 2) Agrarian reform as embodied in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) or R.A.6657 of 1992;
- 3) Ancestral domain reform as embodied in the Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA) or R.A.8371 of 1997; and the
- 4) Aquatic resources reform as embodied in the Philippine Fisheries Code (PFC) or R.A. 8550 of 1998.



AGAINST the background of Mt. Sierra Madre, a row of houses at Kasiglahan Village in Rodriguez, Rizal, serves as relocation site for informal settlers from Metro Manila. (Photo by KJ Rosales)

On Socialized Housing for Urban Poor. Asset reform in urban land and housing refers to the provision of tenure security and decent housing to informal settlers occupying both government and privately-owned land. The UDHA mandated the distribution of idle government-owned lands, the acquisition of private lands suitable for social housing, and the provision of resettlement sites to qualified urban poor families. The three programs of Presidential Proclamations, CMP and Resettlement represent these mandates. Based on the study of the Institute on Church and Social Issues (ICSI), these three programs have been relatively successful in providing some degree of tenure security to urban informal settlers.⁵⁷

To address severe housing shortages, the National Housing Authority (NHA) has been implementing its Resettlement and Community Mortgage Program (CMP) under the National Mortgage Finance Corporation that would benefit some 20,000 households.

Under the Community Mortgage Program, low-income families in informal settlements are allowed to collectively purchase and formalize their landownership through a community mortgage scheme. Employing the concept of community ownership, the program requires would-be beneficiary families to be organized as a community association. Essentially, the granting of security of tenure is considered a form of asset reform,

which finds legal basis in the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992.

Sadly, the granting of formal land ownership has been slow, particularly for presidential proclamations and resettlement projects. The experience of direct beneficiaries has been fraught with delays, lack of knowledge on the part of beneficiaries, and lack of motivation on the part of both the government and the beneficiaries to fulfill their contractual obligations, most notably the payment of amortization.

On Agrarian Reform. The small and landless farmers are the main beneficiaries of land reform seeking social justice consistent with the '*Land to the Tiller*' principle via breaking land monopoly through land distribution and acquisition. The Agrarian Reform in the Philippines should not only accelerate the productivity of the agricultural sector of the country, it should also promote the agro-based industries as well.⁵⁸

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and other government line agencies are expected to substantially accomplish the target under the CARPER Law by the time it winds down in 2014. The government allocated a budget for the purchase of 300,000 hectares of private and public lands under Land Tenure Improvement (LTI), which represents 20% of the remaining 1,485,285 hectares of

land to benefit 5M agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Secretary de los Reyes explained that DAR has set indicative annual targets up to 2014 to substantially fulfill the mandate of RA 9700 of accomplishing the distribution of the remaining land acquisition and distribution balance of 1.093M hectares. However, the DAR Secretary also acknowledged that the government faces huge challenges in completing the distribution of these 1.093M hectares. Almost all of these lands (94%) are private agricultural lands, one-third of which are landholdings 24 hectares and above. Eighty four percent are compensable by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP). Around twenty-five percent are considered problematic mainly because of landowner resistance, disputes among farmer-beneficiaries, illegal

transfer by the landowner, technical problems with land boundaries, etc.⁵⁹

Although the implementation of CARPER was quite slow in terms of allocating the lands to the tillers, the government has been successful in allocating an aggregate of 2.56M hectares of lands among the landless peasants. PNoy committed to finish the implementation of agrarian reform before his term ends in spite of landowner resistance, lack of budget, and legal impediments.⁶⁰

With the desire to foster social justice and inclusive growth, Team PNoy has allocated budget for CARPER amounting to Php6.1B for the Land Acquisition and Distribution activities of the DAR and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The budget will be used for the



distribution of 360,000 hectares of agricultural lands, including the compensation of 260,000 claim holders. The 2013 budget also provides Php362M to support DAR's agrarian justice delivery efforts, which will be used for the settlement of 174,373 agrarian reform cases.⁶¹

Beyond the distribution of agricultural land, this budget also provides Php5.7B for the Program Beneficiaries Development (PBD) of DAR in support of 2,083 agrarian reform communities and 5,018 agrarian reform beneficiary-

organizations. This allotment will also be used by the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) in irrigating 1,765 hectares of distributed lands, and by DENR in developing 6,654 hectares in 119 upland sites that have already been distributed under CARP.⁶²

On Ancestral Domain Reform.

The Indigenous people (IPs) are the descendants of the original inhabitants of the Philippines who have resisted centuries of Spanish and United States colonization, and in the process, retained their customs and traditions. Because of economic progress and modernization, the IPs are driven out of their lands where their livelihood depends and even threatened their survival.⁶³

The 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) was a landmark piece of legislation, which formally recognized the rights of indigenous peoples (IPs) to their ancestral domains and their right to self-determination. The IPs comprises about 13% of the population. It is estimated that 5–7M hectares will eventually be covered under ancestral domain titles or claims. About 2M hectares of land had come under ancestral domain titles (as of 2008). Under the principle of self-determination, IP communities formulate their own management plans for the land and natural resources within their domains. All contracts, licenses, concessions, leases, and permits within these domains are subject to the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)



of the IP community. One major issue has been the overlapping boundaries between IP lands and other claimants, which include poor farmers and settlers, as well as large timber and mining concessionaires (Quizon, 2013).⁶⁴

To date, the IPs are continuously fighting for their right to self-determination, respect for their dignity and preservation of their cultural identity and traditions. They are opposing human rights violation and unsustainable mining activities in ancestral lands.

On Aquatic Resources Reform.

Like farmers, the embattled small fishers are continuing their struggle to gain greater access to and control over aquatic resources against commercial big time fishers equipped with modern fishing vessels and facilities. The economic upliftment of small fisher folk communities can be realized by improving access to post-harvest facilities, providing incentives to commercial fishers to conduct offshore operations, and the establishment of fisher folk support funding mechanisms for their own development.

35.8. Fostering Peace Agreements.

Peace agreements are contracts intended to end a violent conflict. Being a major non-NATO ally, the Philippine government has strong ties with the United States in promoting the “war on terror” and it is receiving strong military support against domestic insurgency and foreign aggression. Because of this, the government faces numerous security threats due to armed conflict with the insurgents and opposing groups such as the New People’s Army (NPA), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the *Jamaiah Islamiyah* and *Abu Sayyaf*, which are strong forces to contend with in the Southern Philippines.

As of this writing, the issue of peace agreements between the GRP and armed groups such as the NPAs, MNLF, *Jamaiah Islamiyah* and *Abu Sayaf* remains at bay. According to the National



Unification Commission (NUC), the peace agreements usually seeks to address the five major causes of conflicts in the Philippines, viz: ⁶⁵

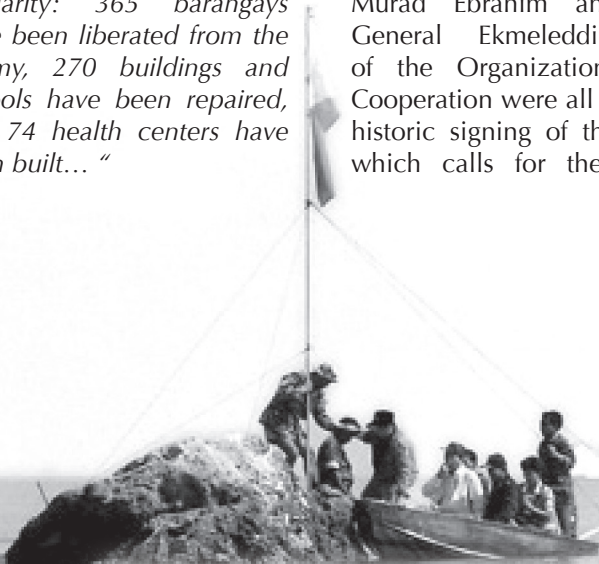
- 1) Massive poverty and economic inequity,
- 2) Political inequity,
- 3) Injustice and abuse of power,
- 4) Poor governance, and
- 5) Exploitation and marginalization of indigenous cultural communities.

In his 3rd SONA, PNoy reported to the people the gains of the peace agreement process:

“We also celebrate the peace and quiet that has returned to places where our countrymen were once deafened by gunfire. As a result of our solidarity: 365 barangays have been liberated from the enemy, 270 buildings and schools have been repaired, and 74 health centers have been built... “

PNoy added, *“Even those who previously wanted to break away are seeing the effects of reform. Over the past seven months, not even a single encounter has been recorded between the military and the MILF. We recognize this as a sign of their trust. With regard to the peace process: talks have been very open; both sides have shown trust and faith in one another. There may be times when the process can get a little complicated, but these are merely signs that we are steadily moving closer to our shared goal: Peace”*

Meanwhile, the Philippine government represented by Atty. Marvic Leonen and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, represented by Mohagher Iqbal signed the *Framework Agreement on Bangsamoro* last October 15, 2012 held at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall of Malacañang Palace in Manila. President Benigno Aquino III, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim and Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation were all present in the historic signing of the agreement, which calls for the creation of



an autonomous political entity named *Bangsamoro*, superseding the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.⁶⁶

35.9. Asserting our National Sovereignty. The international community recognized PNoy as a true leader in foreign affairs. The Philippines has taken the lead in upholding a peaceful, multilateral and consensus-driven diplomatic approach concerning territorial disputes.⁶⁷

In his 3rd SONA, PNoy reported to the Filipinos that, *"The situation in Bajo de Masinloc has been the source of much discussion. Chinese fishermen entered our territory. Our patrol boats intercepted some of their ships, which contain endangered species. As your leader, it is my duty to uphold the laws of our country. And as I did, tension ensued: on one hand, the Chinese had their Nine-Dash Line Theory laying claim to almost the entire West Philippine Sea; on the other, there was the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea, which recognized the rights of many countries, including that of China itself."*

PNoy elaborated, *"We demonstrated utmost forbearance in dealing with this issue. As*

a sign of our goodwill, we replaced our navy cutter with a civilian boat as soon as we could. We chose not to respond to their media's harangues. I do not think it excessive to ask that our rights be respected, just as we respect their rights as a fellow nation in a world we need to share. There are those who say that we should let Bajo de Masinloc go; we should avoid the trouble. But if someone entered your yard and told you he owned it, would you agree? Would it be right to give away that which is rightfully ours?"

35.10. Promoting International and Regional Economic Cooperation. Being an active member of ASEAN, President Aquino has fully supported the regional and multilateral initiatives. He attended the 17th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam and had bilateral meetings with the leaders of Indonesia, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, China, Russia, Brunei and Australia. He has pledged his support for the proposed ASEAN Charter and existing free trade agreements. There are efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and even integration while addressing internal structural problems in compliance with international agreements the country has signed in the past.⁶⁸

35.11. Protecting the Integrity of Philippine Environment.


There are efforts to protect the Philippine environment against the adverse impact of climate change, the imminent threat of natural and manmade disasters, illegal logging, and unsustainable mining practices.

On Climate Change. The Philippines, being in the Pacific Ring of Fire and typhoon belt, will be severely affected by climate change that could lead to widespread destruction of the country's flora and fauna. Because of its location, the country is prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions including floods and typhoons.⁶⁹ The rise in sea levels could inundate coastal communities in over 700 municipalities covering *Sulu, Zamboanga del Sur, Northern Samar, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte, Maguindanao, Davao del Norte, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Cebu, Bohol, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Catanduanes, Samar, Masbate, Palawan, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Quezon* including *Manila*, the capital city.⁷⁰ It is noteworthy that more than 60% of the population resides in coastal areas of Luzon, the largest island group, accounting for more than half of the entire population.

In this backdrop, former Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law the Climate Change Act of 2009 at Malacanang's Rizal Hall last October 23, 2009.⁷¹ Presently, the Aquino government is exerting its best effort to fully "climate-proof" the country through environmental projects and remedial measures, which requires strong LGU support and community participation. In fact, the government has been implementing the following programs:

- 1) **National Greening Program** which aims to plant 1.5B trees in 1.5M hectares of public land;
- 2) **National Renewal Energy Program** using solar power and micro-hydro systems to energize 7,500 households for 2013; and
- 3) **Philippine Energy Efficiency Project** to reduce the cost of power generation through investments in energy efficient lighting systems, among others.⁷²

The 2012 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) has recognized the Philippines as a global "strong performer" in environmental protection and climate change adaptation. According to PNoy, "From being



50th in 2010, we jumped to 42nd place in 2012 out of 132 countries, outranking Australia (48th), the United States (49th), and Singapore (52nd) which are all under the “modest performer” category.”⁷³

On Managing Natural and Manmade Disasters. In the past, the Philippine government was asking for financial aid to support its disaster and relief operations. Lots of people were defenseless and vulnerable against natural calamities. About 12M lives were lost and destroyed Php31B property and economic productivity because of natural disasters as experienced during typhoons *Ondoy*, *Pepeng*, *Sendong*, etc.⁷⁴

Today, relief goods are ready even before a storm arrives. Rescue services are always on standby and the people are no longer left to fend for themselves. The country has a proactive Disaster Risk and Reduction Management (DRRM) Program. And through the National Operational Assessment of Hazards (NOAH) project, the country has adopted the latest technology to

give fair warning to Filipinos to prepare for and avoid the worst catastrophe. The government has 86 automated rain gauges and 28 water level monitoring sensors in various regions. Before the end of 2013, the target is to purchase additional 600 automated rain gauges and 422 water level sensors, which will be installed in 80 primary river basins around the country.⁷⁵

Spearheaded by the Philippine Department of Science and Technology, the Php2B or \$48M, project was launched in July 2012. Automated rain gauges first were installed in river basis around the country, allowing scientists and other experts to track rainfall and river water levels in real time. The project has rolled out LIDAR, or Light Detection and Ranging, a technology which allows for high-resolution 3D mapping of the country's topography – something which scientists say will help the Philippines' better prepare for potential disasters. According to scientists running the project, the entire country is expected to be digitally mapped within two years.⁷⁶

On Fighting Illegal Logging. On February 1, 2011, PNoy signed Executive Order No. 23, which implemented a nationwide total logging ban in order to:

- 1) preserve our environmental and natural resources; and
- 2) mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, such as rampant flooding.

According to PNoy, illegal logging has long been a problem but because of Convergence strategy, the culture of government is to promote ‘*Bayanihan*’ — where different government agencies are working together for better coordination and to maximize the use of resources to help the needy. Under the National Convergence Initiative, the government has been planting trees in 128,558 hectares of forest. In exchange for a conditional cash transfer of DSWD, communities would nurture seeds in a nursery and take care of the trees. About 335,078 individuals are now earning their livelihood from tree-planting activities.⁷⁷

In the spirit of corporate social responsibility, the private sector supported the tree-planting program by giving out special coffee and cacao beans to communities and training the townsfolk to ensure a bountiful harvest. The coffee is planted in the shade of the trees which in turn, help prevent flooding and protect the people. The business sector supports the marketing of

the farm produced allowing the communities to gain extra income.

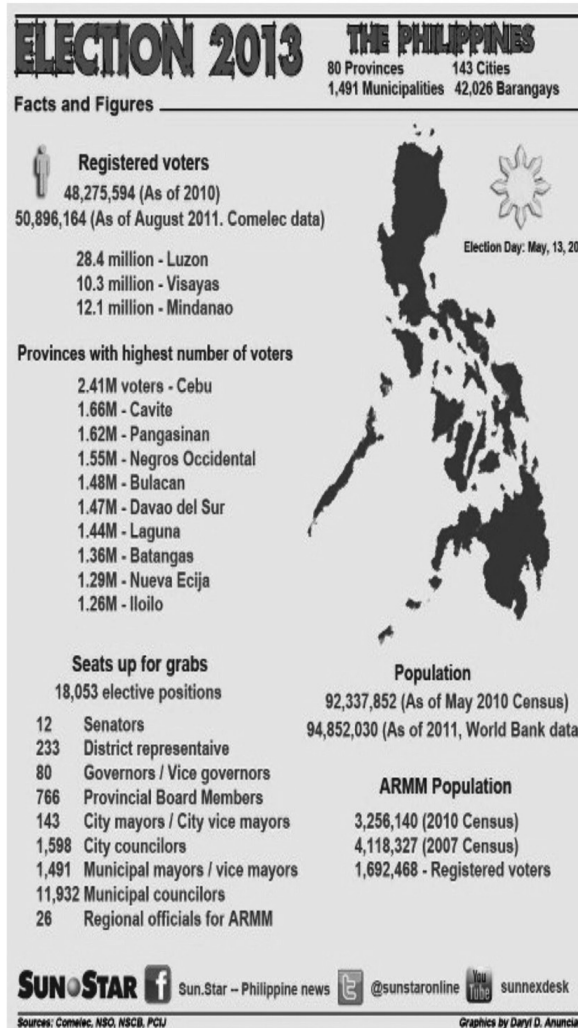
PNoy cited the positive development in Butuan concerning illegal logging, *“From the time we signed Executive Order No. 23, Mayor Jun Amante has confiscated lumber in Butuan province amounting to more than Php6M. The timber confiscated by DENR are handed over to TESDA, which then gives the timber to communities they train in carpentry. From this, DepEd gets chairs for our public schools. Consider this: What was once the product of destruction has been crafted into an instrument for the realization of a better future. This was impossible then — impossible so long as the government turned a blind eye to illegal activities.”*⁷⁸

On Irresponsible and Unsustainable Mining. PNoy crafted and issued an Executive Order on Mining with the idea to fully utilize and manage responsibly our natural resources in order to uplift the living conditions of the Filipinos today and for the next generations. In 2010, Php145B was the total value derived from mining, but only Php13.4B or 9% went to the national treasury. There is money in mining, which can be used for national development.

In his 3rd SONA, the President assured the public that *“We will not reap the rewards of this industry if the cost is the destruction of nature.”*⁷⁹

VI. Philippine National Election 2013

36. The National Election constitutes a vital element in a democratic republic like the Philippines where the ultimate authority and power must emanate from the people. Ideally, national and local elections must reflect the true will of the people so that it becomes an expression of “social pact” between the state and the Filipino people. And so goes the Latin dictum, “*Vox populi, Vox dei*”, which means that the voice of the people is the voice of God. In this light, protecting the dignity of a person where God truly resides at the core of one’s being is synonymous to protecting the secret sanctity of the ballot, which is a crucial part of the electoral process. It is the duty of every Filipino to vote wisely and participate meaningfully in this national election. It is imperative to ensure a clean, peaceful and honest election
37. On May 13, 2013, millions of Filipinos went to their designated precincts to exercise their right to vote in a midterm election that President Aquino considers a referendum on his three years in office. Based on a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey, more than 50% voters are under 44 years of age. The voter’s profile further revealed that out of the 54.5M registered voters, 11.92M voters belong to 25-34 years old; 9.37M voters are from 35-45 years old; and 4.91M voters are from 18 to 24 years old.⁸⁰
38. Being elected were 12 senators and all 229 district members of the House of Representatives including local elective positions in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao plus the 123 registered party list. In total, there were 18,053 national and local seats up for grabs.⁸¹



39. The two major coalitions that completed 12-candidate slates were **Team PNoy** led by President Benigno Aquino III's Liberal Party, and the **United Nationalist Alliance (UNA)** of former president Joseph Estrada's **Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino** and Vice President Jejomar Binay's **Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan**. The other parties"

tickets which were allowed by the COMELEC were the left-leaning **Makabayang Koalisyon ng Mamamayan**, the Catholic Church-supported **Ang Kapatiran, Bangon Pilipinas** Party of televangelist Eddie Villanueva, the **Democratic Party of the Philippines**, the **Social Justice Society** and several independents.⁸²

2013 Senatorial Candidates



A. Political Dynasties

40. According to the Center for People Empowerment and Governance (CenPEG), self-preservation and expansion of political dynasties are the twin objectives of the formation of senatorial slates by both the pro-Aquino ruling coalition

and the UNA representing the opposition party. For instance, the Senate which is the stepping stone of future presidents, is being eyed by the next kin of former and incumbent presidents as their career path (see *Matrix 1*)⁸³

Matrix 1. Political Dynasty

Former and Incumbent Presidents	Incumbent Senator and Aspiring Senatorial Candidates
• Sergio Osmeña	• Sergio Osmeña III
• Ramon Magsaysay	• Ramon Magsaysay Jr. III • Mitos Magsaysay
• Ferdinand Marcos	• Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.
• Joseph Estrada	• JV Ejercito
• Corazon Aquino • Benigno Aquino III	• Paulo Benigno Aquino

While the 1987 Philippine Constitution has banned political dynasties where members of only few families control power at the national and local levels, this constitutional caveat has never been implemented. In fact, the study of CenPEG revealed that many of the Senate re-electionists whose terms end in 2016 have their dynasty lineage dating back to two to four generations since the colonial period at the turn of the 20th century.⁸⁴

CenPEG concluded that *“the concentration, expansion and consolidation of political dynasties over the past 100 years attests to the continuing*

*hegemony of feudal politics, the absence of any form of real democracy, and the continued powerlessness of a vast marginalized majority in the Philippines. Definitely alarming today is the entrenchment of the system of political dynasties on a higher and blatant scale making the fair representation of the large majority of Filipinos more elusive.”*⁸⁵

Indeed, the national and local election in the Philippines boils down to the continuous practice of political patronage, organized cheating and massive bribery. According to Mr. Alejandro Lichauco, *“What we have is a plutocracy, a political system that produces a government of*

“What we have is a plutocracy, a political system that produces a government of the moneyed, by the moneyed and for the moneyed.”

the moneyed, by the moneyed and for the moneyed." And for as long as political patronage remains the dominant force in Philippine electoral reform amidst hunger and poverty, genuine democracy is nil.⁸⁶ In many occasions, intense rivalries between political clans and dynasties have resulted to massive vote buying, grave threat and political killings across the country. The presence of private armed groups and the proliferation of unlicensed firearms in circulation have exacerbated the incidence of election-related violence.

True enough, landlords and local elites are dominating our bicameral legislature. Hence it is the power of the entrenched ruling elite that has strong influence over the economic, socio-cultural and political affairs of our country including its governance even until today.

B. Results of Midterm Elections

41. As of this writing, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has been canvassing the votes obtained by all candidates for Senators covering 304 certificates of canvass (COCs) which represents the total votes from provinces, highly-urbanized cities and overseas absentee voting centers. It also reflects the grouped canvass reports.⁸⁷

The COMELEC has allowed the media and other groups to use a "Transparency" server that would have tallied results directly from election returns. These were the initial results of the national election that the media disseminated to the general public while the COMELEC en banc awaits the transmission of canvass results from the municipal and provincial canvassers. Chairman Brillantes blamed the intermittent telecommunication signals in several towns that slowed down the pace of the collection of the results.⁸⁸

On May 13th, Chairman Sixto Brillantes said that the commission en banc sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC) was expected to proclaim the 12 winning senators on May 15th (*Wednesday*) but it did not push through because of UNA's motion to defer the partial proclamation. After careful deliberation, however, the NBOC members finally decided to reject the motion of UNA's deferment. Incidentally, a total of 12 senators in three batches were proclaimed by the NBOC (*see Table 2*)

The first batch of Senators proclaimed by the COMELEC last May 16 (*Thursday*) based on the 22% of the certificates of canvass, or about 13 million votes were Grace Poe, Loren Legarda, Alan Peter Cayetano,

Chiz Escudero, Nancy Binay and Sonny Angara.⁸⁹

The second batch of Senators proclaimed by COMELEC last May 17, 2013 (*Friday*) based on 109 (out of 304 COCs) were Bam Aquino, Atty. Aquilino Pimentel III and Antonio Trillanes IV.⁹⁰

Finally, the third batch of Senators who were proclaimed by COMELEC last May 18, 2013 (*Saturday*) were Cynthia Villar, Joseph Victor Ejercito and Gregorio Honasan garnering 705,000-vote lead against 13th placer Richard Gordon which deemed to be statistically impossible to be overtaken with

only about 350,000 votes left to be counted.⁹¹

As shown in Table 2, Grace Poe continues to lead all candidates, with eight others from Team PNoy also in the winning circle: re-electionist Senators Loren Legarda, Chiz Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Koko Pimentel and Antonio Trillanes IV, Aurora Rep. Sonny Angara, Bam Aquino and Cynthia Villar.

The candidates representing UNA took the remaining three slots, namely Re-electionist Senator Gringo Honasan, Nancy Binay and San Juan Rep. JV Ejercito.

Table 2. Official Partial Results of Top 20 Senators in the Philippines (as of May 18, 2013)

CANDIDATES	PARTY	VOTES
1.POE, GRACE	IND	16,339,187
2.LEGARDA, LOREN	NPC	14,941,738
3.ESCUDERO, CHIZ	IND	14,136,096
4.CAYETANO, ALAN PETER	NP	14,128,779
5.BINAY, NANCY	UNA	13,309,965
6.ANGARA, EDGARDO	LDP	12,852,482
7.AQUINO, BENIGNO BAM	LP	12,375,427
8.PIMENTEL, KOKO	NP	11,845,039
9.TRILLANES, ANTONIO IV	NP	11,388,418
10.VILLAR, CYNTHIA	NP	11,069,285
11.EJERCITO ESTRADA, JV	UNA	11,009,914
12.HONASAN, GRINGO	UNA	10,620,409
13.GORDON, DICK	UNA	10,159,561
14.ZUBIRI, MIGZ	UNA	9,489,595
15.ENRILE, JUAN PONCE JR.	NPC	9,167,061
16.MAGSAYSAY, RAMON JR.	LP	9,153,186
17.HONTIVEROS, RISA	AKBAYAN	8,900,192
18.HAGEDORN, ED	IND	6,876,516
19.VILLANUEVA, BRO.EDDIE	BP	5,603,356
20.MADRIGAL, JAMBY	LP	5,408,998

Location	ERs Received	Completion Status
ARMM	1091	40%
CAR	1139	64%
Region 1	3533	77%
Region 2	2185	71%
Region 3	6585	84%
Region 4A	7693	79%
Region 4B	1759	73%
Region 9	1846	63%
NCR	6805	90%
Region 5	3875	80%
Region 6	5294	84%
Region 7	4831	85%
Region 8	3806	74%
Region 10	2601	72%
Region 11	2688	78%
Region 12	2060	74%
CARAGA	1886	86%
OAV	0	0%

*COMPLETION STATUS compares the total registered voters for each election return (ER) received against total number of voters for the area

<http://election-results.rappler.com/2013/senate/>

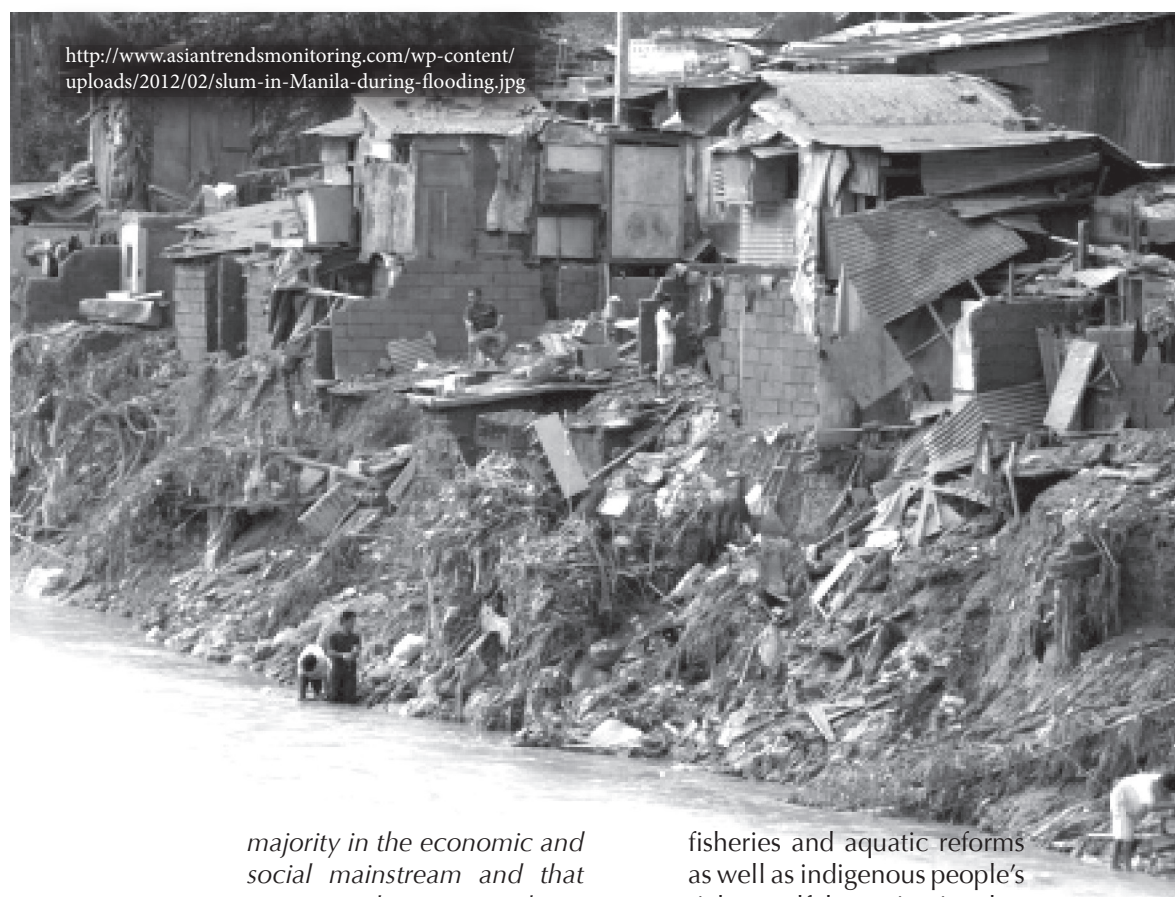
VII. Prospects and Challenges

42. The prospect is bright and is working for the Aquino administration, which has restored public trust and business confidence in the country. The Philippine national economy is growing and it has demonstrated remarkable resilience despite difficult global conditions.

Given the rapidly changing markets, altering political terrain and knowledge-based competition, the Philippine government along with other stakeholders including De La Salle University (DLSU) must be able to navigate with the emerging threats and opportunities within the context of globalization. It must be able to exploit prospects and overcome the following challenges that cut across the spheres of Economic, Political, Socio-Cultural and the Philippine environment.

42.1. Exclusive Growth vs. Inclusive Growth

Historically, the economy's growth has been slower and more erratic. According to Dr. Cielito Habito, the economic growth has failed to translate into significant poverty reduction. Hence, the Philippine economy today faces a two-fold challenge of (1) accelerating and sustaining higher growth, and (2) ensuring inclusive growth that benefits a broader spectrum of the society both sectorally and geographically. Some economists believe that the type of economic growth we have is not inclusive which should redound to the welfare of the country's majority especially the Filipino poor.⁹¹ The government defines inclusive growth as *"one that is sustained, that creates jobs, that draws the*



majority in the economic and social mainstream and that continuously reduces mass poverty.”

Dr. Habito has identified the following industries and sectors that hold the greatest potential for inducing more inclusive growth, namely: (1) Agriculture and Agribusiness, (2) Tourism, (3) Business Process Outsourcing, (4) Food and Design-Based Manufactures (i.e., high end garments and furniture and fixtures) and (5) Mining.⁹²

Nationalist economists advocate for the genuine implementation of social and asset reform agenda consisting of urban land reform, agrarian reform,

fisheries and aquatic reforms as well as indigenous people's right to self determination that would allow the rural poor to gain access to and control over productive resources to improve the quality of life. Agro-industrialization must be pursued to create permanent jobs that are sustainable along with a package of capacity building and technology development to build a strong industrial base.

42.2. Persistence of Poverty, Hunger and Unemployment

Absolute poverty can be defined as a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs including food, potable

drinking water, sanitation facilities, healthcare, shelter and education. It depends not only on income but also on access to basic social services. In general, poverty may take in various forms such as lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; culture of violence resulting to rising criminality and unsafe environments; social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs when there is a subsequent loss of livelihoods as a result of economic recession, disaster and/or armed conflict.⁹³

Economic experts believed that the root causes of poverty can be divided into internal and external factors. The internal causes of poverty stem from:

- a) unequal distribution of wealth;
- b) unjust social structures;
- c) overpopulation;

- d) poor governance marred by graft and corruption practices;
- e) faulty development models;
- f) ballooning fiscal crisis and foreign debt;
- g) over concentration of productive resources in favor of urban growth centers over rural development;
- h) the adoption of import substitution, export-oriented policies;
- i) lack of capacity building and job mismatch;
- j) the snail-paced implementation of agrarian reform; and
- k) the lack of investments in infrastructure as preconditioned for take-off towards agro-industrialization, among others.⁹⁴

External causes include (a) market imperfections, (b) unfair trade relations and unjust economic policies detrimental to the interests of least developed nations like the Philippines, and the (c) inequitable distribution of the world's resources. Although the globalization process of facilitating the unbridled entry of goods and services

may present opportunities in business and commerce, the process of opening-up the domestic market to be integrated into the global economy may cause harm to less developed countries especially to local small industries ill prepared and vulnerable to the adverse impacts of globalization. Without safety nets from the State, they are deemed to fail against stiff competition especially in the areas of finance, production, trade, marketing and information technology.⁹⁵

While the Philippine government claims that we are now a newly industrialized market economy in Southeast Asia, leftist groups contend that the

character of the Philippine ruling system has remained semi-colonial and semi-feudal. It has kept an agrarian and pre-industry economy that is dependent on the production of raw materials for export and low value-added semi-manufactures for export. The income from these economic activities almost often falls short of import payments. And to cover its trade and budgetary deficits, the government has incessantly engaged into domestic and foreign borrowings particularly from the International Monetary Fund-World Bank (IMF-WB) along with the application of regressive taxation policy and the appropriation of the OFW remittances (Sison, April 2008)⁹⁶



It is important to understand that a significant portion of our Philippine national budget goes to foreign debt servicing as prescribed by the IMF-WB. The Philippines, being a signatory of international treaties particularly, the GATT-WTO must review its current economic policies to assess whether it is truly advancing the national interests of the Filipino people or catering to the interest of foreign investors. Some nationalist economists believe that it is imperative for the Philippine government to adopt a more calibrated economic policy to provide safety nets to local industries while pursuing the path of agro-industrialization to uplift the nation out of poverty.

43.3. Awakening a National Cultural Consciousness

Managing the complex forces of globalization is one of the greatest challenges that the Philippines faces today with the emergence of an increasingly Western-dominated culture marked by global capitalism, materialism and consumerism, a trend in which many Asian countries has sparked concern about

the erosion of national identity and traditional values.⁹⁷ Cultural homogenization threatens to diminish local cultures by creating a global culture based mainly on hyper consumerism. In this regard, cultural homogenization is a form of cultural repression rather than an open expression of cultural differences (LAFT) ⁹⁸

Until now, the challenge of developing the Filipino's creative spirit and awakening a national cultural consciousness remains elusive. Prof. Felipe de Leon explained that the underdevelopment of Philippine society is deeply rooted in this chronic loss of Filipino self-esteem due to centuries of colonization and miseducation reinforcing a negative self-image that foreigners are far more superior and better than us. He enumerated various factors why there has been a lack of national unity among Filipinos even as of today, to wit: ⁹⁹

- 1) External interference by the US in our Philippine economic, political, social and religious life;

“ Cultural homogenization threatens to diminish local cultures by creating a global culture based mainly on hyper consumerism.”

- 2) Adoption of alien concepts and faulty development models;
- 3) Inappropriate and impractical management style of leadership;
- 4) Lack of cultural awareness and understanding on Filipino psychology;
- 5) Great divide between the Filipino elite taking advantage of their own people in connivance with foreign interests; and
- 6) Lack of nationalism and commitment to nation-building.

42.4. Ending Political Dynasties

Politics in the Philippines has been under the control of a few notable families. "Political dynasty" is synonymous to oligarchy in political science. The history of political dynasties can be traced back to the Spanish period and American rule, where the colonizers employed "*Divide and Conquer*" strategy in order to have a reliable ruling class as "allies" in local governance. Overtime, governing elites who are educated were able to amass wealth and consolidate their political

clout in specific provinces and regions. They were able to establish political patronage over its constituency using state resources to reward individuals in exchange for political support. Political leaders have the power to appoint local government officials and to issue contracts within and outside government. In some cases, they tend to hire family members (nepotism) and may resort to cronyism by awarding government contracts to friends or relatives without public bidding.¹⁰⁰

Truly, the Philippine political system is replete with stories on how local politicians are using 3 Gs (guns, goons and gold) during local and national elections just to prolong their stay in power. Incidentally, their political and economic powers are extended to their next kin at the local and national levels.

42.5. Handling Peace Accord and Upholding Human Rights

According to Mr. Ramon Banlaoi, it is imperative to strengthen the Philippine state and its democratic institutions of governance to forge a national consensus for nation building and socio-economic development. Sadly, globalization is

intensifying the country's ethnic and religious divisions. A concrete manifestation is the persistent separatist clamor by Filipino ethnic and Muslim groups who feel they are neglected in the globalization process and they would be better off to fend for themselves independent from the national government. Since colonial times, the Filipino Muslims are aspiring for a leadership that will transform their ideal aspirations into economic and social realities.¹⁰¹

To avoid conflict, the Philippine government must be careful in dealing with traditional security and economic partners like the US and Japan and the rising global power of China.

Concerning human rights, the Philippine government must be able to guarantee the freedom of expression of all citizens particularly journalists and media practitioners. It is the responsibility of the government to investigate, prosecute and punish those

who inflict harm on media practitioners, political activists and even to ordinary citizens. Recall the case of Dr. Gerry Ortega, a prominent civic leader and a former radio host of the RGMA Network, who was killed in Puerto Princesa City by a lone gunman on January 24, 2011. There are many instances in the past that the state could not fully guarantee the constitutional rights of journalists and politically activists.

In the midst of criticism that human rights violations has continued under his administration, PNoy signed an executive order creating an inter-agency task force on extra-legal killings, enforced disappearances, torture and other grave violations. The mission of the taskforce is to investigate and monitor high-profile, human rights abuse cases (e.g. Maguindanao Massacre, etc.) to be led by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima together with the national defense and DILG secretaries, military and national police chiefs.¹⁰²



42.6. Mitigating Climate Change

Around the globe, climate change is expected to put 49M people at risk of hunger by 2020 and 132M by 2050. According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the rural poor who are fully dependent on agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry is the most vulnerable sector because they lack the institutional and financial capacity to withstand the negative effects and impact of climate change.

Climate change is attributed directly or indirectly to

human activities that alter the composition of the global atmosphere, in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. The effects of climate change are already being felt worldwide including the Philippines situated in the “Pacific Ring of Fire”. The country frequently faces natural and man-made disasters aside from earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Appropriate responses will be determined by the nature of risks related to climate change, geographical locations and livelihoods.¹⁰³

VIII. Lasallian Response to Social Transformation

The Philippine national situation provides the context and meaning by which De La Salle University (DLSU) like any other educational institution must reflect on its transformative role to bring forth genuine social development, a society where everyone is liberated

from poverty, ignorance and social injustice towards the fullness of life. The **'signs of the times'** only reaffirm the imperative of the Lasallian mission of providing human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor.



As part of Higher Education, DLSU must contribute to the task of nation building by producing Lasallian achievers for God and country. It must continue its strategic role of generating and transmitting knowledge through academic excellence, exemplary research and community engagement. Operationally, it implies that DLSU must mobilize its resources, especially the skills and expertise of its faculty and students in teaching, research and community engagement work to actively participate in societal issues and concerns. Lasallians could develop a national framework and road

map for national development. It should also strengthen academic–industry relationship to develop new technologies and scientific breakthroughs that would bring more opportunities for real social transformation. In this sense, the DLSU becomes a truly engaged university bridging faith and scholarship in the service of the nation.

According to Br. Ricardo Laguda FSC, 22nd president and chancellor of DLSU, the important functions of service and community engagement is to facilitate the process of creating new knowledge and applying them innovatively as solutions that bring about social change and transformation, solutions that have revolutionized partnerships with non-government organizations, people's organizations, private and public sectors. Such partnerships should create a sustainable future for generations to come. DLSU needs to consider its strategic roles in national and regional development, and ask itself whether the university served as agents of change.¹⁰⁴

At DLSU, venues and opportunities for self-propelled individual and collective actions are context-sensitive and must be life affirming involving the Lasallian family in partnership with larger communities.¹⁰⁵ The experience of DLSU in integrating its academic courses into community engagement through community service/outreach programs, service learning, community relations,



corporate social responsibilities, socio-civic activities by professionals and student volunteers have made a positive impact on student's learning. Indeed, there is now a direct correlation between academic curriculum via-a-vis community engagement efforts to enhance student's learning while helping disadvantaged sectors.

A. DLSU Community Engagement Framework

Consistent with the Lasallian social development principles, the way to proceed is to follow the newly developed Community Engagement Framework of DLSU which has three inter-related phases and processes.¹⁰⁶ Basically, it follows a three-track approach:

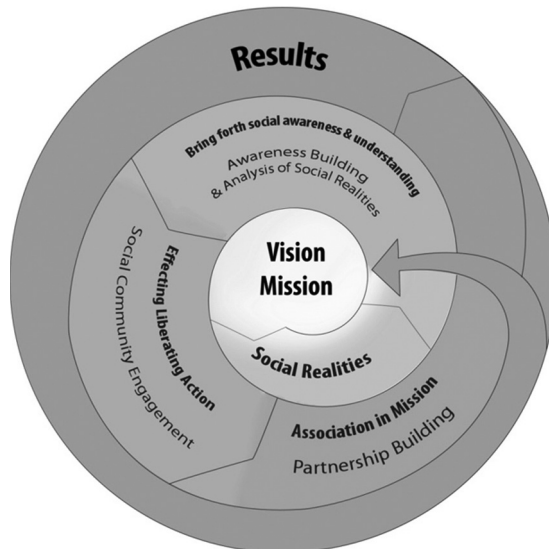
Phase 1 – Bringing forth social awareness and understanding;

Phase 2 – Partnership Building and Association in Mission; and

Phase 3 – Effecting Liberating Action through social/community engagement towards the vision-mission of DLSU (see Fig.1)

Guided by the spirit of faith, Lasallians are expected to *bring forth awareness and a deeper understanding of social realities*. In the same way that St. La Salle was “moved by the plight of the poor,” Lasallians today are expected to

Figure 1
Lasallian Community Engagement Framework



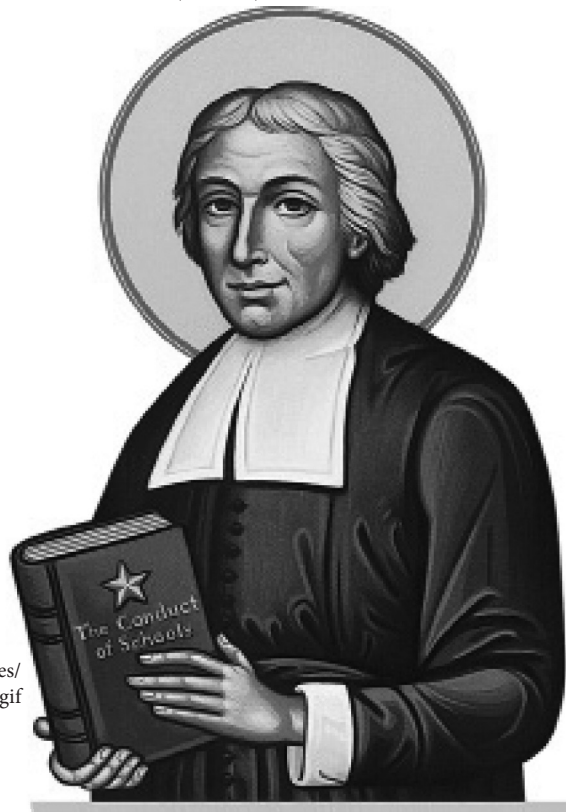
maximize exposure activities to form their social conscience. These experiences must allow them develop appropriate and relevant responses to reduce poverty and social injustice. Using the eyes of faith, they begin to ask themselves, *“Is this God’s plan for humanity? If not, what is He calling me to do?”*¹⁰⁷

Communion in mission means being in solidarity with progressive elements of the larger community to bring forth a society that is in keeping with God’s plan. Just as the first La Salle Brothers made a vow to work together and by association to establish schools for the poor, Lasallians today are encouraged to engage with like-minded individuals and institutions to make a sustainable impact on eradicating the many forms of human sufferings that beset society.¹⁰⁸

Effect liberating action fuelled by zeal for service. Zeal is the active expression of faith in gospel witness and service. It is oriented towards the integral salvation of persons, particularly the poor and the excluded (2009b). Just as the Founder, St. John Baptist De La Salle responded to the call of faith by establishing schools, Lasallians are expected to seek opportunities to actively engage themselves in social transformation. Using his/her expertise/skills/talents, the Lasallian learner/educator/formator is expected to derive relevant, context-sensitive solutions to social injustice. It is not merely action that is done for the sake of doing

something, but rather, it is done to build capacities and mutually empower both the Lasallian and the poor.¹⁰⁹

Since the First Lasallian District Synod, DLSU has adopted faith, service, and communion in mission as its core values. According to Br. Michael Broughton FSC, *“these values are central to our identity as a Lasallian institution for higher learning as they guide us in pursuing community engagement activities that are related to our fields of expertise.”* Every Lasallian institution must ensure *“the integration of the principles of Lasallian Social Development in curricular and externally oriented programs that will guarantee the exposure of students to social realities and encourage their active involvement.”* (2009a)¹¹⁰



http://www.fscdena.org/images/whoweare/2010/dls_colorful_icon.gif

Lasallians should imbibe these core values and seek opportunities to apply them along with Expected Lasallian Graduate Attributes (ELGAs) being (a) effective communicators, (b) service driven citizens, (c) critical and creative thinkers, and (d) reflective lifelong learners. Br. Laguda stressed that “While it is important for students to excel in terms of academics, it is also equally important for them to become service-oriented and life-long learners.”¹¹¹

B. Diversity & Nature of DLSU Community Engagement Initiatives

Indeed, DLSU has a long and vibrant tradition of community engagement with the active participation of Lasallian brothers, alumni, parents, administrators, faculty, students and external partner communities. Together and by association, they have been touching hearts, teaching minds, and transforming lives in the Philippines. Most of its community engagements are implemented locally in collaboration and/or in partnership with civil society organizations, faith-based groups, local government units (LGUs) and disadvantaged groups. The scope and area coverage of its involvement varies depending on

the needs of its target sectors and nature of community engagement starting from micro, meso, national up to international levels.¹¹²

Presently, the eight Colleges of DLSU that are directly involved in social formation and community engagement programs are Ramon V. del Rosario-College of Business (RVR-COB), College of Science (COS), Gokongwei College of Engineering (GCOE), Br. Andrew Gonzalez-College of Education (BAG-CED), College of Liberal Arts (CLA), College of Computer Studies (CCS), College of Law (COL) and Schools of Economics (SOE).¹¹³

Matrix 2 shows the diversity and nature of community engagement involving the 8 colleges of DLSU together with the Vice Chancellor for the Lasallian Mission (VCLM), Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA), Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Student Affairs (SA), Office of Counseling and Career Services (OCCS), University Student Government (USG), Council of Student Organizations (CSO), Business Management Society (BMS) including DLSU - Parents University Student Organization (PUSO) and DLSU Clinic and Main Library, among others. ¹¹⁴ Needless to say, the sample list is long but not yet exhaustive.

Matrix 2. Nature of DLSU Community Engagement & Snapshots of Development Interventions

Problems and Needs of Philippine Society	Nature of Community Engagement & Development Interventions	DLSU Colleges & Auxiliary Units
1. Poverty & unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Economic and Enterprise Development (SEED) in Bagac, Bataan • Education and Livelihood Trainings such as soap-making, charcoal briquetting, new shampoo, soaps, candles, paper-making in Bagac, Bataan • Supplemental Livelihood for small fishers such as seaweeds culture in Lian, Batangas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COB, SOE, COSCA • COE, COS • COSCA
2. Lack or limited access to the following basic social services		
a) Food and Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Feeding & Playing Program in Singalong, Manila • Donation of Relief goods and clothing in times of calamities • Donation of loaves, toys and gifts during Christmas in Leveriza, Manila and Bagac, Bataan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Sciences under CLA • All Colleges, COSCA and Lasallian Family • CLA-PE Department
b) Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of potable water and irrigation system (e.g. Pico-hydro project in Abra, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCOE
c) Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and Application of alternative renewable energy using solar and wind energy for low cost lamp post in Bagac, Bataan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCOE

d) Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary shelter for street children and their families in District V-Manila • Gawad Kalinga in Baseco, Manila and other GK sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSCA in partnership with St.Scholastica-Manila • VCLM, CED, GCOE plus student organizations
e) Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical and Dental Mission at Women's Correctional Prison in Mandaluyong • Medical Mission in Lian, Batangas and Bagac, Bataan • Medical & Dental Mission in Brgy. 704, Zone 77 in Malate, Manila 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COS, DLSU-Clinic, PUSO, ROTC, etc. • COSCA • COSCA, ENGLICOM & BMS in partnership with LGU
f) Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-School in Brgy 714 in Leveriza, Manila • Values Formation Programs for children, youth, women and adults • Educational Scholarship (e.g. MACE) • Donations of books and school supplies • Computer Literacy Program (CLiP) • Sports Clinic and donation of Sports Equipment in Pakil, Laguna, Apalit in Pampanga, and Paluan, Occidental, Mindoro • Teacher's Training in Apalit, Pampanga • Adopting Jaime Hilario Integrated School in Bagac, Bataan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAG-CED • BAG-CED, COS, CLA, COSCA • CCS • CCS, CLA • CCS • CLA- PE Department • BAG-CED • BAG-CED, CLA, COS, COE, RVR-COB, SOE

g) Basic Service Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Child-Friendly Spaces in Barangay 704, Zone 77 to provide (a) lecture/academic tutorial lessons, (b) mini-library (c) Daycare/playpen, and (d) computer tutorial for children and youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Student Government, COSCA, COB, CCS, DLSU-Library in partnership with LGUs
h) Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing project in Sitio Looc, Bagac, Bataan in 2009-2010 • Designing and Installation of Public Address System in Barangfay 704, Zone 77. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCOE-SERVECom
3. Poor Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar on Good Governance in Barangay 745, 753 & 754 in Singalong, Manila • Active participation in the voter's education campaign for May 2010 National Election • Active involvement in monitoring & assessment of automated election system towards strengthening May 2010 electoral reforms using ICT in the Philippines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLA-PoliScy • CCS, CLA • CCS in collaboration with CBCP-NASSA, LJPC, AMRSP, CPU and the UP Alumni Association
4. Socio-cultural problems related to juvenile delinquency, drug addiction, social disorder and cultural disintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values Formation and Education Program for children, youth and adult • Strengthening Barangay Child Protection Council (BCPC) in Barangay 704, Zone 77 in Malate, Manila and in Barangay 718, Zone 78 in Leveriza, Manila 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAG-CED, CCS, COS, COSCA and USG • USG-COMMDEV, COSCA, DLSU Library and CCS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy supporting Bill for Deaf Persons • Free Legal Education; Free Legal Aide Clinic • Advocacy supporting Children in Need of Special Protection and Youth at Risk • Psychological Assessment of 25 children in Coron, Palawan • Teaching Family Values and Responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COL • BAG-CED, CLA, COL • CLA-Psychology Department in collaboration with Children's Chance for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. • CLA-TRED and Psychology Department
5. Environmental degradation (i.e., water and air pollution, solid waste management and climate change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Million Trees and Beyond • Mangrove Nursery and Rehabilitation in Lian, Batangas • Marine Protected Areas in Lian, Batangas • Community organizing in coastal barangays in Batangas • Implementation of Disaster Risk and Reduction Management (DRRM) Programs in partnership with LGUs in Lian, Batangas and Bagac, Bataan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Colleges and student organizations of DLSU in collaboration with COSCA • COSCA and COS – Br. Alfred Shields Marine Station • COSCA • COSCA, CCS, GCOE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Relief Assistance and Post-trauma counseling of survivors in Iligan City and Catmon, Malabon during Typhoon Pedring and Sendong • Damage Needs Capacities Assessment (DNCA) in Iligan City during Typhoon Sendong • Mental Health Evaluation in Tondo, Baseco, Malabon and Navotas. • Mapping of Disaster prone communities in Lian, Batangas • Installation of Disaster Response System in Bagac, Bataan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLA- Psychology Department and COSCA • CLA- Psychology Department, STAR and OCCS with COSCA • CLA- Psychology Department and COSCA • CCS and COSCA • CCS and COSCA
6. Environmental degradation (i.e., water and air pollution, solid waste management and climate change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of Mangrove System and Bamboo Planting in Bagac, Bataan • Carbon foot printing, solid waste management, reed bed, rip-rapping – fortification of the areas along the path of the river that empties into the bay, perimeter lighting (using solar cells technology) • Monitoring air pollution in Manila City • Clean-up and Rehabilitating Estero de San Antonio in Leveriza, Manila 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCOE-SERVECom • GCOE-SERVECom • COS-Physics Department • COSCA, GCOE, COS, LGU in Barangay 718 and 720

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para-Legal Assistance and environmental legal enforcement • Developing Nursery Native Tree Species in barangay Calucmov, Socorro in Oriental Mindoro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •COL •COS, CSO
7. Lack or limited information, data and documentation requiring research to address community problems and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Profiling • Digital mapping identifying disaster vulnerable sites in Lian, Batangas • Installation of Resource Inventory for Disaster Management System in Lian, Batangas • Community-Based Monitoring System for Poverty Alleviation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •COSCA, SOE •COSCA and CCS •COSCA and CCS •SOE, RVR-COB

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Centennial Prayer of the Lasallian Family

God, source of every good,
in everyday and age you raise up women and men
to lead, teach and inspire people.
We thank you for the gift of St. John Baptist De La Salle.
He has left us the wonderful legacy of a Gospel-based education
which challenges us to live meaningful lives of humble service
in favor of the last, the lost and the least.
As we celebrate 100 years
of Lasallian presence in the Philippines,
we commit ourselves to continue your work
by integrating the Lasallian values of Faith,
Zeal for Service and Communion in Mission
in our personal lives and in all our undertakings.
May this bring about change,
in our society and in our world.
We make this prayer in your most Holy Name,
Amen.

**St. John Baptist De La Salle,
Pray for us
Live Jesus in our hearts,
Forever!**



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