



# Paglalaum

Issue No. 47 HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

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## PILG-HSF FORGE PARTNERSHIP: TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF A WELL-INFORMED PUBLIC



PILG Program Manager Clarisse Aquino (holding mic) reports to the Chairwoman of Hanns Seidel Foundation Prof. Ursula Männle the activities conducted by PILG and HSF for the awareness of the public by means of public fora, roundtable discussions and study tour on the issue of federalism from year 2016 up to the present, during the HSF celebration of its 40 years of development cooperation in the Philippines at the Dusit Thani Hotel, August 8, 2019. *Story on page 4*

### STRICTER BARANGAY LAWS VS VIOLATORS ON FACE MASKS

By Clarisse Aquino

In order to prevent the rise of infections of Covid 19 in the barangay level, the barangay sanggunian can enact their own ordinances to penalize violators on the protocol requiring the use of face masks.

Face masks have been universally seen as a major deterrent against the spread of the Covid 19 virus.

In order to ensure that barangay residents never fail to wear masks, this can

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*Nene Pimentel quotes:*

(Here we lift some notable quotes taken from articles and speeches of the late Senate President Nene Pimentel commenting on burning issues then, which have remained relevant in today's events).

### *Anti terror law needed, but.....*

*“The country needs an anti-terrorism law.*

*“The reason is that terrorism is now the scourge of the world.*

*“Terrorism threatens every nation – rich or poor – imminently, and directly. To us, who believe in freedom and democracy, it must be met decisively and legally if we are to keep our people secure in the exercise of their rights and freedoms. People’s rights and freedoms lose value*

*unless allowed to flourish under an umbrella of law and order or to use a much-abused buzzword, security.*

*“Since terrorism feeds on force, it must be met by government counterforce to beat it. Hence, our law enforcers must be equipped with the necessary tools to detect terrorism, prevent terrorist acts before they are implemented, arrest and jail the terrorists.*

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## Nene Pimentel quotes: Anti terror law needed, but.....

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"If we are to facilitate the fight against terrorism, we need laws that allow our law enforcers to use methods that are adequate to combat terrorists in their game. If terrorists use computers, cell phones, emails, and the banks to ply their nefarious trade, our law enforcers must be given the right to use sophisticated methods to detect, impede and prevent the former's ability to do so.

"It is necessary, however, that law enforcers strictly adhere to the anti-terrorist methods that they may use in accordance with law. And those ways must not be inconsistent with the basic human rights and the fundamental civil liberties of our people. That said, people must also understand that their right to be secure in their daily life is also paramount."

(Excerpt from Nene Pimentel's speech at the Senate November 10, 2005)



The late former Senator Nene Pimentel during the deliberation of Anti-terrorism bills at the Senate Session Hall, November 10, 2005.

## Stricter barangay laws vs violators on face masks

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be strengthened by the enactment of a barangay ordinances.

Barangay ordinances may impose the penalty of fines not exceeding P1,000 against those found to violate the requirement of using face masks.

This can be seen as a potent tool of barangay authorities to keep their respective areas safer from the invasion of Covid 19.

Section 391 of Republic Act No. 7610 otherwise known as the local government code authorizes the sanggunian barangays as the legislative bodies to "prescribe fines not exceeding one thousand pesos

(P1,000) for violation of barangay ordinances"

Thus a barangay may enact an ordinance requiring the wearing of face mask by everyone who enters the jurisdiction of a barangay.

And should anyone be caught not wearing facemask within the territory of a barangay, a fine not exceeding P1,000 may be imposed by the ordinance.

To ensure that the ordinance is strictly enforced, barangay officials including deputized barangay local law enforcers and tanods may be given a portion of the revenues

generated by fines as incentives.

Such practical ordinances can autonomously enable barangay authorities to make sure their respective barangays are safer against the spread of Covid 19.



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Image taken from *The Philippine Star*: A man rests on his motorcycle parked in front of a public service announcement.



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# NURSE'S DEATH SPOTLIGHTS LGUS CAPACITY VS COVID

By Jay Dejaresco



## LGU CAPACITY VS COVID 19

The tragic Covid-related death of a retired nurse in Laguna recently has spotlighted capability issues of local governments in the country in effectively coping against a deadly virus which to this day continues to wreck havoc on the health and lives of many of our people.

There is thus a need for local governments to heighten their capabilities in fighting Covid-19.

Making the rounds of social media was the story of how a retired nurse from Alaminos Laguna, Dorothy Hernandez Tolentino suffered while being brought from her hometown in Laguna to Metro Manila for treatment.

Her husband Art Tolentino recounted the ordeal when his wife Dorothy, a cancer patient, tested positive for Covid on August 7, 2020.

Art Tolentino wrote on his wife's struggle:

*"On her 5th day of isolation after breakfast, we heard her coughing and complaining of difficulty in breathing. So we requested assistance for life saving ambulance from SPC District RHU and Alaminos Health Clinic. Unfortunately, it took more than 6 hours waiting for the Provincial ambulance but could not obtain release of approval.*

*After follow ups with the Municipal Health Officer with the assistance from our Brgy.*

*Chairman, an L300 makeshift ambulance came, with only the driver wearing a very good PPE, designed to be worn in an ICU setting. Sadly the driver was not prepared for Covid patient rescue. He was not even accompanied by a trained medical worker to assist my wife in her journey and endorsement to the hospital.*

*The most frustrating part is, the ambulance had no ventilation, very hot (no AC), no oxygen, having a stretcher without bedding & safety body strap. Instead of medics to take my wife from the house, I took my wife using her wheel chair and help her go inside of the ambulance with the driver simply looking & waiting to close the rear door of the van. He did not even bother to check the safety condition of my wife whether she is seating or lying safely on the stretcher before closing the ambulance door. Without seeing a support medic, I sent my daughter to accompany her mom in the trip to endorse her health condition at UP-PGH, which is supposedly not my daughter's job.*

*From our barangay, my wife experienced so much difficulties on the very poor condition of the ambulance, moving so fast, without oxygen and with her body shaking due to her unsafe seating condition. My daughter finally fixed her on the stretcher as the vehicle reached and passed along SLEX, with her arms holding her mom to prevent her from being thrown away due to speedy ambulance.*

*The ambulance reached PGH-ER shortly with my wife almost dying as her oxygen level have dropped at 80%, prompting to give her respirator and emergency treatment. After hospital endorsement, Dodot was Swab tested again, but official test results found her negative against COVID. After 2 days she was Swab tested again also with negative result.*

*My wife was diagnosed to have a very severe pneumonia, making her intubated for the next 10 days. As her oxygen level could not normalize, she received treatment as if she is a COVID patient. If not only for her strong will to survive and the many people praying for her safety and recovery, my wife could have easily given up her life. Her mind is so strong but her body becomes weaker until she gave up early morning of Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020 due to cardiac arrest."*

The incident highlighted the need to provide more resources also to the local government units and their health facilities to equip them with the necessary facilities to assist patients infected by virus.

While the apparent epicenter of covid seems to be in the Metro Manila area, as seen by a continued recording of daily infections, the local governments need attention to enable them to be more effective in responding to the basic needs of those infected in the provinces.

# PILG-HSF forge Partnership: towards the attainment of a well-informed public *From Page 1*

By Clarisse Aquino

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation-Philippines (HSF) have strengthened their linkages in their common resolve to promote and educate the people on the advantage of a federal system of government

The PILG-HSF collaboration gained momentum in the last few years when the government issued a call for nationwide discussions on the shift towards a federal system of government in the Philippines.

The late founder of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance, former Senate President Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., had been a lifelong advocate of federalism as a way to break the centralized manner of wielding political power and distribution of the nations resources that has hampered the growth and economic development in the countryside.

It was in 2016, when PILG forged a partnership with Hanns Seidel Foundation, focusing on a campaign to support of the Philippine government's information drive about federalism with a parallel thrust towards a shift to a federal system of government.

Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a non-stock, not-for-profit, non-governmental entity (NGO) organized and existing under the laws of the

Federal Republic of Germany with its main office in Munich, Germany.

It supports programs and projects in more than 60 countries worldwide. The international cooperation program of HSF is funded by official sources, namely, the Federal Government of Germany, the European Union and the Government of the Free State of Bavaria/Germany.

It has been active in the Philippines since 1979, extending development assistance to Philippine partner organizations mainly in the field of human resource and policy development ranging from training and education, community-based and top-level policy dialogues, research and publication, international/regional exchange, to project development. (source: HSF website)

The Hanns Seidel Foundation headed by its Country Representative to the Philippines, Mr. Gotz Heinicke, in cooperation with the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) is supporting education and



PILG President Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana (right) and Program Manager Clarisse Aquino (left) posed at the banner of HSF-PILG Partnership during the 40 years Hanns Seidel Foundation in the Philippines at Dusit Thani Hotel, August 8, 2019.

information activities on federalism.

The main objective is to provide broader and deeper knowledge of the philosophy and the principles of federalism as a system of government and help key representatives of government and members of society gain a better and more comprehensive understanding of federalism.

From 2016 to 2019 joint activities were held. More than 42 public fora, round table discussions, workshops and a youth camp were conducted. Each forum was attended by over one hundred participants.



HSF Country's Representative, Gotz Heinicke (standing) deliver the opening remarks at the Forum on Federalism and the Bangsamoro Organic Law at Plaza Ibarra, Quezon City on December 17, 2018.



Forum on Federalism, a continuing program of the PILG and HSF to a well-informed the public. The late Senator Nene Pimentel discussed the Draft Bayanihan Federal Constitution at Cagayan de Oro City.



With the Philippine Delegations to the International Munich Federalism Days, November 11-15, 2019 at the HSF Munich Conference Center in Germany. (L-R) HSF Representative to the Philippines Gotz Heinicke. PPI Executive Director, Ariel Sebillino. HSF Head of South and Southeast Asia Division Institute of International Cooperation Stefan Burkhart, UNDP Program Analyst Mohammad Al-Amin Jukipli.



Forum on Federalism with foreign speaker Dr. Andreas Heinemann Gruder, Senior Researcher, Bonn International Center For Conversion (at the center) together with HSF Resident Representative Götz Heinicke and PILG Chairman, Nene Pimentel, at UP NCPAG, Diliman, Quezon City.

To further broaden such information dissemination, the HSF also re-printed 3,200 copies of the book entitled, “Federalizing the Philippines: A Primer.”, and additional 400 re-printed copies for this year 2020.

They also supported the printing of 3,000 copies of flyer of the ConCom draft distributed during activities.

With its vision to be an internationally-recognized provider of training program, again, with the support of the HSF the PILG were able to send 7 delegates to Information and Exchange Visit on Federalism in Germany in 2016, and 6 delegates to the International Munich Days in 2017 and 2019 respectively.

From year 2017 to 2020 with the

sponsorship of the HSF, PILG was able to send 7 delegates to EURAC Research Winter School of Federalism in Austria and Italy.

Two delegates were also sent at Federalism Summer School in Canterbury in UK in 2019.

The delegates sent abroad will constitute of the Core Group/ Alumni on federalism, and task to help us disseminate information and consultations on the issue of federalism.

Immense obstacles to the adoption of the federal system is the lack of understanding about the whys and wherefores of the system.

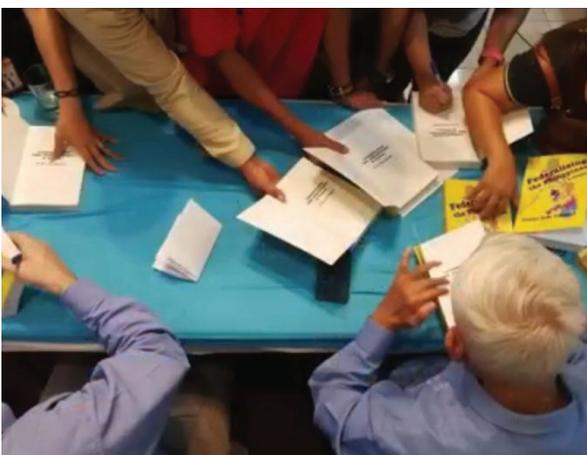
The PILG and HSF to continue their mission to educate the people about

federalism.

During this pandemic, the most applicable method to push the federalism programs is through online seminar.

A Zoom application intends to invite participants to join the seminar. Forum, roundtable discussions and newsletter information are lined-up for this year activities.

Key to an informed society is the continuation of discussions and exchanges of ideas on federalism in various platforms so the laudable benefits and advantages of a federal form of government would be understood and appreciated by the people.



To further intensify the program on Federalism, HSF re-printed the book entitled Federalizing the Philippines: A Primer, for distribution after each forum.



Another program supported by the HSF is the Batang Transformer Youth Leadership Camp, held every year at the Phillip Sanctuary, Antipolo City.

# ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ

By Jay Dejaresco

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance honors the late Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, a leading figure in promoting and upholding social values in Philippine society. While a stalwart in the Catholic church, Bishop Oscar Cruz was better known to be a fighter of society's evils like illegal gambling and corruption in government.

The outspoken archbishop died last August 26 at the age of 85.

The fiery Cruz was a regular speaker of one of the major projects of PILG which is the "Batang Transformer" a movement to foster understanding between young Filipinos from diverse social and religious backgrounds.

Archbishop Cruz is remembered in PILG as the man who advocated human commonalities in the midst of a society full of diversity.

Outspoken retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz emphasized "commonality in community" during the our Batang Transformer Seminars.

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

He explained commonality refers to the usual sayings we all encounter like "All for one. One for all", or "United we stand. Divided, we fall" Or "In unity there is strength. In disunity there is debility" Cruz also stressed the elements of community which begin with the family being the core unit of society.

Community expands in breadth to our respective neighborhoods, to society, and to the entire country. In his talk, Archbishop Cruz involved the youth participants in a workshop in groups where they were made to answer three questions, which are: "*Ano ang ibig sabihin ng batang transformer (What is meant by Batang Transformer)?*" "*Ano ang ibig sabihin ng community (What is meant community)?*" "*Ano ang ibig sabihin ng commonality (What is meant by commonality)?*"

Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz was born Nov. 17, 1934 in Balanga, Bataan. He was ordained a priest on Feb. 8, 1961 and ordained a bishop on May 3, 1976. He served as auxiliary bishop of Manila from 1976 until he was appointed Archbishop of San Fernando, Pampanga. His next appointment was as Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan on July 15, 1991. There he established Caritas Dagupan to help give the poor livelihood and health projects. The prelate was instrumental in the formulation of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan for Lingayen-Dagupan.

He was President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines from 1995 to 1999 and has served as a judicial vicar of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines National Tribunal of Appeals. He was also a



director of the CBCP Legal Office.

What his biodata failed to say is that Archbishop Cruz is articulate and witty, able to capture his audiences with his ability to explain in simple terms such dense subject matter as Canon Law, of which he is an expert.

Archbishop Cruz, who has always stood for the truth, is perhaps best known for his valor. He has opposed the dissolution of marriages when some solons wanted to impose a 10-year validity on marriage contracts, and more recently, despite death threats, he exposed and opposed the proliferation of *jueteng* (illegal gambling).

Archbishop Cruz retired on Sept. 8, 2009. His successor, Archbishop Socrates B. Villegas, described Archbishop Cruz as a "a great man of the Church, an epic who is himself larger than life" and who is "unique and irreplaceable."



“ All for one. One for all”, or “United we stand. Divided, we fall” Or “In unity there is strength. In disunity there is debility” ”



# PEPE PESTAÑO

By Jay Dejaresco

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance pays tribute to a man who was willing to share all he had for the betterment of the youth of Philippine society.

The PILG is deeply appreciative of the generosity of the late Ka Pepe Pestaño for graciously offering his sprawling farm as venue for the many gatherings of youths from all over the country for the yearly Batang Transformer.

Ka Pepe Pestaño unselfishly offered to the Batang Transformers a permanent home of their own. It is now their National Headquarters.

It is located in the idyllic Ensign Phillip Pestaño Sanctuary in Antipolo City at the Eastern edge of Metro-Manila barely 50 kilometers away.

The 16-hectare site is fully planted to trees, has natural creeks, man-made ponds and swimming pools, and the so-called obstacle courses that lovers of nature find irresistible. It is named after Ensign Phillip Pestaño, who

offered his young life at 23 in defense of the ideals.

As their headquarters, Batang Transformers can converge from all over the land, Ka Pepe informed those who witnessed the inauguration, “will now be welcome to use the facilities of the Sanctuary for their functions.”

Ka Pepe Pestaño hogged the limelight and became known as the father of the late Ensign Philip Pestaño, the young idealist lieutenant killed while trying to expose corruption in the military.

Since the death of his son Philip, which he aggressively argued and pursued as a murder conspiracy of rouge military higher ups, Ka Pepe never lost a breath



Ka Pepe Pestaño

seeing to it that justice be rendered for his son.

Authorities had dubbed his son’s death as a suicide, but Ka Pepe would’ve none of it. It was murder plain and simple, Ka Pepe would vigorously contend.

Ka Pepe showed to a younger generation how a father would and should love a son.

He dedicated his farm in Antipolo in honor of his son Philip.

He set up a museum, featuring memorabilia about his son.

In his farm one would see a vast expanse of fruit bearing trees lined up in military precision and spaced evenly from one another, just like in the military.

Every year, when PILG conducted its annual gathering of the brightest among the youth of the nation from different parts of the country, it was Ka Pepe Pestaño’s relaxing farm which made the perfect venue for the weekend seminar.

Ka Pepe Pestaño himself would introduce his farm and would bring the participants around for them to witness who the farm has evolved into a place inspired by the life of his murdered son.

During morning of the seminar Ka Pepe would invite guests to join him in picking up fruits that have become ripe enough for consumption. Nobody goes hungry in his farm, Ka Pepe would say.

## EULOGY FOR TITO PEPE PESTAÑO

By Pauline Bautista

I will remember Tito Pepe with much gratitude and admiration everytime my seeds become seedlings, when seedlings grow into trees, and trees bear fruit. Every meal with him through our six Batang Transformers Young Leaders Peace Camps meant tasting his latest harvest, learning something new about food propagation, and appreciating nature a little bit more concretely. On our last lunch with Tito Pepe we had an incredibly delicious coconut wine. He delightedly took us through the process of its becoming and we all agreed that it raised our bar for lambanog, as he humbly grinned, beaming with joy. That is the lasting image I have of our energetic Batang Transformers Uncle, co-Founder with our beloved Tatay Nene, dedicated Benefactor of this peace mission, and gracious host to hundreds of Muslim, Christian and Indigenous young leaders. His beautiful forest did not just provide a training ground but also nurtured the culture of peace and creative teamwork, ensured physical and spiritual nourishment,



Pauline Bautista

and planted in us the seeds of values and virtue, that guided him and his beloved Philip as they lived their one meaningful and inspiring life. Rest now with our heroes Philip and Tatay Nene dear Tito Pepe, because the seeds you have sown in our hearts are steadfast seedlings that will bear much fruit.

Thank you from our hearts. You are our hero. And thank you to the Pestaño family for opening your hearts to each and every Batang Transformer and to all of us.

# REMEMBERING SENATOR NENE: MY STORY

By Clarisse Aquino

My first encounter with the legend who was Nene Pimentel I was struck with a mixture of feelings.

It was 1996 when I first met Sen. Nene. I was introduced by the late Dir. Terry Dumogho as the PDP Laban Secretary General- Caloocan Chapter, during their meeting at his law office in Gold Loop, Ortigas Pasig

I trembled being with a man with a notable hoarse voice that could easily intimidate those within hearing distance. Yet unexpectedly I was astonished by the tenderness, even meekness of his demeanor when he talked.

I was excited to see him for the first time. Here I was, awed in the presence of a man who stood larger than life with his unparalleled political exploits. I was also inspired being with him knowing so many people looked up to him.

But after two decades of tagging along with this man, I realized he was simply using all his waking hours working for the betterment of his people. And he seemed to always be in a hurry, aware that borrowed life on Earth had time limits. Procrastination was his vaunted enemy. *"Don't waste time,"* was his constant reminder.

In 1998 I was asked by Dir Terry Dumogho to join him in the Office of Sen. Nene to assist him in handling the Local Government Committee, assigned to him by Sir Nene.

Early in my professional career, I found myself to be an easy fit doing the work of a secretary. I became one to a few.

In three years from 1998-2001 I was secretary to Dir. Terry Dumogho, to Chief of Staff Gwen Pimentel-Gana and to Dir. Ed Salvosa, handling administrative work and sometimes legislative task. Then I realized it was training experience for me for greater responsibilities.

In December of 2001, I was asked by M' Gwen to substitute the secretary of Sir Nene, (Ate Ruby), who was scheduled to go on leave for two weeks, I did as secretaries are supposed to do ---- follow instructions.

I then became the (substitute) secretary of Sir Nene for two weeks, attending to all his office needs and grueling, back-breaking schedule. I might say that I was able to do my job well for that two-week stint.

On the last day of my two-week tour-of duty as temporary secretary of Sir Nene, on my way home, I received a call from COS Gwen, telling me that *"Clarisse as per Tatay, starting Monday you will be his secretary"*.

At first, I was hesitant, aware of the demands of the job. I told COS Gwen, that I will just assist his secretary, but COS



With Sir Nene when he was a Senator.

Gwen just told me to report to Tatay on following Monday. So, I went to the office and I saw Sir Nene, and he immediately told me that *"starting today you will be my secretary, and Ruby will be the administrative head of the office"*. And that was it.

I became Sir Nene's secretary for more than two decades.

Twenty-one years of immense learnings.

Twenty-one years of training on the job.

Twenty-one years working for this man who tirelessly worked to make the lives of people better.

Filipinos from earlier generation knew Sir Nene of his exploits as a fearless freedom fighter.

Later in his life he wanted to be known as a bridge-builder, one who connected what otherwise were separated by ideology, beliefs, religion, social backgrounds.

A previous chapter of his life may have been devoted to fighting---- fighting oppression, fighting injustice, fighting tyranny.

When I worked for Sir Nene, I saw a man who was more an innovator, a creator, who made things happen, a peacemaker, unifier. Naturally it was a gentler (by and large), mellowed (but with occasional deviations), toned down boss. (Thank God)

I was his secretary in his Senate office, until his term ended in 2010, and even beyond.

As a secretary, I handled all his engagements here and abroad, prepared power point presentation for his speeches, did research work for his books, to be physically present to assist him in his official engagements and perform other functions as assigned to me from time to time.

After his term ended as a Senator in 2010, he asked me to join him in his Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance up to this time.

Working with him for more than two decades, I can truly say, I was educated in



With Sir Nene with his last mission: Federalism

a way that just couldn't be measured by diplomas or degrees. It wasn't much of academic learning, although there were tons of it. It was learning more about the purpose of life. What are we here on Earth for? It is to make the lives of others better.

To mention some of Nene's teachings, it was to value our work and don't waste time. He repeatedly said that *"Yung pera mapapalitan pagnawala, pero yong time paghuniipas na, at may bagay na dapat sana ay nagawa mo sa oras na iyon ay hindi na maibabalik pa"*.

He loved working not for himself but for the country. I am the living witness of how hardworking he was. If you were his staff, you should do your best in your work. There were times when even at 3 a.m., I received text from him saying *"pag gising mo sa umaga, email me this"*.

He was awake when the whole town slept.

Yet Sir Nene was a very ordinary person. And how he loved his blue barong. He actually had quite a few of them. But it seemed he only had one because he kept wearing the same kind and color. He shunned fashion, but not passion.

He even cracked jokes, telling me funny stories, during our travel time, in an airplane or in his car.

He also got mad, but he was the unusual type of boss who apologized. He would email you or personally write you a letter, saying sorry for my outburst, and *"let's work again tomorrow."*

There are many stories to tell and words are not enough to describe how good a person and boss Sen. Nene was.

For 21 years of working with him he did not treat us --those who worked for him-- as if we were below him. He treated us with dignity, as his partners in the tasks he had to perform.

Thank you, Sir, for lessons of life. I will be forever grateful that once in my life I became part of your journey to serve our people and country.