



The official publication of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

## BAYANIHAN FEDERALISM TO EMPOWER LOCAL EXECS



(L-R) Professor Edmund Tayao as speaker, Atty. Michael Henry Yusingco, as reactor and Atty. Ryan Estevez as the moderator of the online seminar on federalism held last June 16, 2021, dubbed as “Bayanihan Federaism: Real Empowerment at the local level.”

By Clarisse Aquino

An online seminar on Bayanihan Federalism was held on June 16, 2021 as part of the “Pimentel Institute Memorial Lecture Series. The Online seminar dubbed as **“Bayanihan Federalism: Real Empowerment at the Local Levels”**

sought to provide broader and deeper knowledge of the philosophy and principles of federalism as system of government.

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### Local execs vying nat'l posts shows empowered LGUs

By Jay Dejaresco

The successful journey of local autonomy in the Philippines is evidenced by the fact that even elected local government officials are now considered formidable presidential timbers in national elections.

The race for the highest positions in the government is no longer the exclusive domain of nationally elected or appointed government officials.

As an example, the current President is the first sitting mayor to have waged a successful presidential campaign in the nation's political history.

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### Webinars on media literacy held

By Clarisse Aquino

Webinars on “Media and Information Literacy: Towards A Democracy Resilient Society were conducted on the following dates:

- Feb. 8, 2021 - Polytechnic University of the Philippines;
- Feb. 26, 2021- Cavite State University;
- Mar. 25, 2021 - Isabela State University;
- Mar. 26, 2021 - Mindanao Media;
- May 19, 2021 - West Visayas State University;
- May 21, 2021 - Cebu Normal University;
- July 10 - Digital News Exchange; STI

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## Local execs vying nat'l posts shows empowered LGUs *From Page 1*

In the past, candidates for the presidential races were limited to either senators or cabinet members, except perhaps for the late Corazon Aquino (but who was nonetheless a wife of a senator).

This only shows the continuing empowerment of local government units and local government executives themselves.

This was the observation of Gwendolyn Pimentel Gana, President of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) during the *"Fed Talk at the PILG"* a podcast program of the PILG.

The nation elected the first president coming from the ranks of local executives in the person of former Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

"That is a testament to the success of the local government code," Gwen Pimentel Gana said.

The future augurs well for more local executives to continue to be considered heavyweights in presidential elections.

In next years elections, at least two mayors are again considered potential presidential timbers, like incumbent Davao City mayor Sara Duterte and Manila Mayor Isko Moreno.

This phenomenon can be attributed to the empowered of local governments through the enactment of the local government code thirty years ago.

The law, Republic Act No, 7160, was authored by the late Senate President Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel, Jr.

The local government code devolved many vital government functions and services to local government units, transforming these local agencies to become critical agencies in national development.



FED Talk at the PILG, with guest PILG President Atty. Gwendolyn Gana and host Atty. Michael Henry Yusingco, Premiered at PILG facebook page on August 10, 2021.

"Before the enactment of the local government code of 1991 no one could ever imagine that a sitting mayor can vie for, much less win the presidency," Gwen Pimentel Gana said.

Before, the pathway to the presidency is limited to the tracks emanating from the senate, or if one is a cabinet member, like former president Fidel Ramos and Ramon Magsaysay, who were former defense ministers.

Today, with the vast powers given the local elective officials through the local government code, their achievements and performance are highlighted in the national scene.

Nene Pimentel was a staunch advocate of local autonomy.

He too was a city mayor of Cagayan de Oro before he landed in national elective and appointive positions.

Pimentel had lamented that during his time as mayor of Cagayan de Oro City, even purchasing a glass window for a local government office required approval from the national government.

Atty. Gwen Gana said all local government officials are grateful for the local government code and to the late Senator Nene Pimentel for steering the enactment of this

significant piece of legislation.

Aligned with local autonomy is the advocacy towards a shift to a federal system of government, which is seen to grant more, and institutionalize powers structures and authority of the provinces cities and municipalities and the barangays.

# Paglaum

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

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**Disclaimer:**

This publication was produced with the support of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF). Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinion of HSF.

## Bayanihan federalism to empower local execs *From Page 1*

The activity also aimed to increase the awareness of the people on the Draft Federal Constitution as part of a continuing effort to assist them in coming up with informed choices

The Baynihan Federalism was attended by 91 participants via zoom and live via PILG Facebook page (with more than 200 Facebook views and 76 shares), composed of local government officials, academe, students and media people.

Speakers and reactors of different fields of expertise explained the significance of enabling the public to properly absorb, process and evaluate the torrent of information about Federalism and its implication at the local levels.

Among the main speakers was Prof. Edmund Tayao, one of the members of the Consultative Committee to Revise the 1987 Constitution. He discussed the implications of Federalism at the local levels.

He also discussed the key systemic features in the Bayanihan Draft which includes the Political Parties as Public Institutions; Election of the President and Vice President as a tandem; Reconfiguration of the House of Representatives and adopting real Proportional System of Representation; More Comprehensive and Demandable Rights; More Powerful Constitutional Bodies, e.g. CHR and Philippine Competition Commission; and the 16 Federated Regions and the Bangsamoro and Cordilleras. He also discussed about the Fiscal Administration, the shares of the LGUs in the national collections.

**PIMENTEL INSTITUTE**  
Memorial Lecture Series

**Topic:**  
"BAYANIHAN FEDERALISM:  
Real Empowerment at the Local Levels"

▼ Wednesday, 16 June 2021  
▲ Live Start at 2:00 PM

VIA zoom  
(Registration required)

**SPEAKER:**  
Prof. EDMUND TAYAO  
Member Constitutional Committee to Review the 1987 Constitution

**REACTOR:**  
Atty. MICHAEL HENRY YUSINGCO  
Ateneo Policy Center of the Ateneo School of Government.

**Welcome Remarks:**  
Dean EDERSON TAPIA  
University of Makati

**Message:**  
Mr. GÖTZ HEINICKE  
HSF Resident Representative

**Emcee/Moderator:**  
Atty. RYAN ESTEVEZ  
UNIFAST Executive Director

Atty. Michael Henry Yusingco was reactor during the webinar. He cited the importance of setting a benchmark in order to understand the whole effort of changing the system of governance.

He also mentioned that the national government has an innate resistance to share or devolve the functions and powers to the Local government units.

He also expressed his disappointment that the present administration did not give full support to Bayanihan draft, explaining that the absence of support any efforts will mean failure .

He maintained that knowing that it is the best of all the drafts that we have, we should now start debating on it in the proper forum like in the Congress.

The Bayanihan Federalism draft, he said is not just about federalism but it is more modest in scope.

Federalism is just about setting the arrangement between multiple levels of government, in terms of power, resource and authority sharing and devising intergovernmental relations and mechanisms in order to manage cooperation, collaboration and even competition between and among the levels of government.

Federalism draft is a grand bargain of reforms and if the ConCom had more time and resources and support from the administration, the Filipino people would have benefited from learning from discussions and debates about the Bayanihan Federalism draft.

The Bayanihan discussions pertains to systemic reforms that the country needs, even as it was acknowledged that charter change is very sensitive issue.

The seminar was moderated by Atty. Ryan Estevez, who presented a balanced perspective through conversations with the speaker, reactor and participants.

The participants identified the main challenges and problems that need to be considered in the matter of information dissemination and promoting information about Federalism.

Among the questions raised was the extent that the proposed constitutional bodies are able to maintain their independence from increasing influence of the president.

They also asked how constitutional reforms promise greater discretionary power to be exerted by LGUs.

**Pimentel Institute**  
Memorial Lecture Series

via zoom  
16 June 2021

**CHAT BOX**

politics. "changing the rules of the game is a very crucial thing"

From Caroline Lee to Mr. (Direct Message)  
Thank you, Rey!

From Erwin Plamento to Everyone  
May e certificate po ba ma'am/sir?

From Joseph Freeman Diaz to Everyone  
Thank you po sa lahat!

From Rueland Badoy to Everyone  
Thanks po Sir Usec: Ryan

From ANNA LEAH ROMERO to Everyone  
Thank you so much po!

From Marilyn Betis to Everyone  
Thank u for this productive meeting

From Erwin Plamento to Everyone  
Thank you so much po

From Francis Tom Temprosa to Everyone  
Thank you po!!

Topic: "DRAFT BAYANIHAN FEDERALISM: REAL EMPOWERMENT TO THE LOCAL LEVELS"

## Webinars on media literacy held From Page 1

West Negros University; Carlos Hilado Memorial State College; and

- August 15, 2021 - Palawan State University,

It was designed to intensify voter education as a prelude to the coming national election.

The webinars were conducted by the Philippine Press Institute in partnership with the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance and Hanns Seidel Foundation conducted an online seminar on February 8, 2021.

Every activity was attended by more than 100 participants, composed of professors and students from different universities and media practitioners.

The webinars were on virtual format via zoom application and also live via PPI, PILG, HSF Facebook Pages.

The thrust of the activity was to strategize the efforts to educate voters as they use various platforms of communication available to them.

Speakers of different fields of expertise from media, to elections, and public policy highlighted the significance of enabling the public to properly absorb and process and evaluate the torrent of information flooding various media platforms

whether traditional or in social media.

The discussions, gave participants the opportunity to seek enlightenment on the various forms of communication that is available to citizens and voters, especially the young.

The speakers and their respective topics were Dr. Hemmady S. Mora, Chairperson, Department of Journalism, PUP who discussed the topic “Democracy Resilience: A Research Study”; Prof. Edmund S. Tayao, Executive Director, Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF) and Faculty Member, Ateneo School of Government discussed the “Structural Reforms as Imperative to Strengthening Democracy”;

Also speakers were Mr. James Arthur B. Jimenez, Spokesperson and Director IV, Education and Information Department, Commission on Elections (COMELEC), talked about Credibility of Electoral Processes; Ms. Marinette A. Retona, Researcher/ Reporter, Vera Files talked the

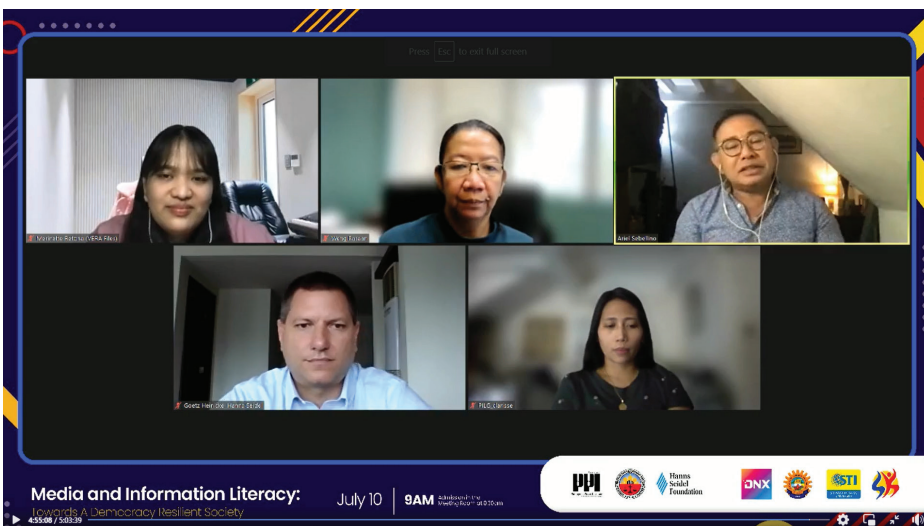
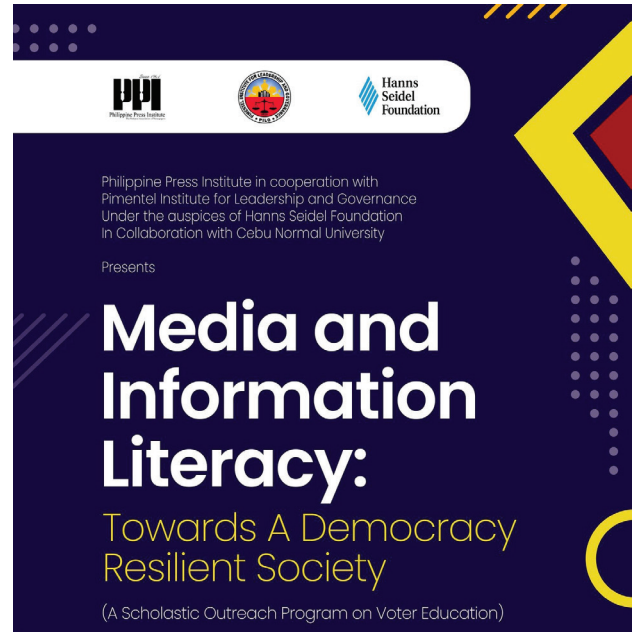
importance of fact checking; Ms. Rowena C. Paraan, Head ABS-CBN Bayan Mo, i-Patrol Mo spoke, about Journalism and the Disinformation Virus; and Ms. Carolyn O. Arguillas, Editor-in-Chief, MindaNews shared the Elections: Lessons from Mindanao.

The guests addressed the concerns raised by the participants specially on the uncontrolled flow of information that is both good and bad information, and how these can be properly treated to enable the public to make wise decisions, particularly on the matter of educating the voters.

The participants identified the main challenges and problems that need to be considered in the matter of information dissemination and promoting information media literacy.

Participants of the seminar expressed their support for the activity as a way to make voters aware of the nuances of various communication platforms specially with the nearing elections.

They were also thankful to the PPI and to the Hanns Seidel Foundation and PILG for the informative program.



Screengrab from Philippine Press Institute (PPI) facebook live during the seminar online on Media and Information Literacy, an Scholastic outreach program on voters' education, July 10, 2021.