



Paglbaum

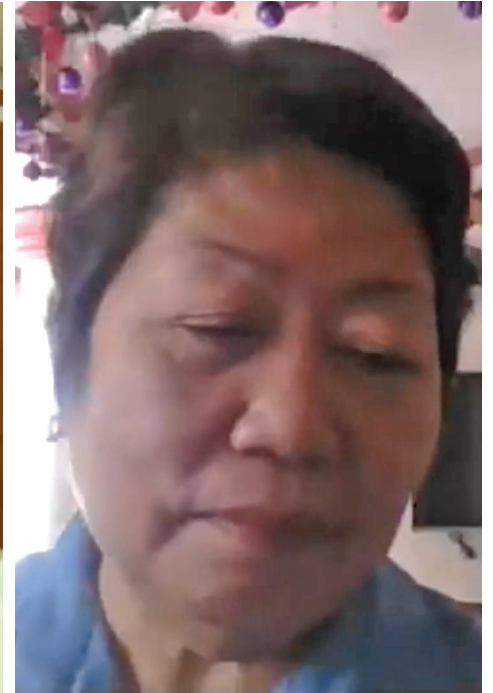
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HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

October - December 2020

The official publication of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

GOOD GOVERNANCE, FEDERALISM TALKS HELD



WORK FROM HOME IS THE NEW NORMAL. (L-R) Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, Batangas Governor Hermilando "Dodo" Mandanas and DILG Undersecretary Marivel Sacendoncillo were main speakers of the PILG-HSF series of seminar-online. CJ Puno discussed the Bayanihan Federalism last November 28, 2020, while Gov. Mandanas and Usec. Sacendoncillo vital issues in local governance particularly the Decision of the Supreme court on the national taxes due the local governments, last October 10, 2020. *Story on page 3*

BT Alumni Reunites

By Clarisse Aquino

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (PILG) heightened its engagement with youth leaders in the country by reuniting the alumni delegates of the Batang Transformers. The PILG saw more needed to touch base with youth leaders to continue to discuss vital issues confronting the nation such as the global pandemic which has affected the lives of millions of Filipinos.

Guided by the initial objectives of the training camp, the virtual reunion of graduates of Batang Transformers aimed to realize the following objectives: to remind the BT about character-building through transformational and servant leadership, solidarity and service to the community. The reunion also sought to exhort them to become change makers

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Distribute vaccine equitably

By Jay Dejaresco

Developed countries, global health authorities, and pharmaceutical companies in the forefront of the anticipated mass roll out of Covid 19 vaccines must ensure that distribution be equitable and immediately accessible to the rest of the nations if there is to be a global and lasting approach to solving the corona virus pandemic.

This was the call of Gwen Pimentel-Gana of the Commission Human Rights with the advent of the development of Covid 19 vaccines in western countries like the United States and the United Kingdom.

These vaccines are now have hurdled final-stage trials and eventual emergency use approval by the drug administration

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Distribute vaccine equitably From Page 1

in the United States.

At least three leading Covid 19 vaccines with promising efficacy developed by pharmaceutical giants Pfizer, Moderna and Astra Zeneca have been granted regulatory approvals that will pave the massive roll out in billions of doses to be administered to the global population.

Commissioner Gana emphasized that preservation of life is a fundamental human right.

She stressed that now that there is a major development in addressing the pandemic with the availability of vaccines, it is primordial that ethical solutions mirror and reflect the principles of human rights, universality and equity which are core values of the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

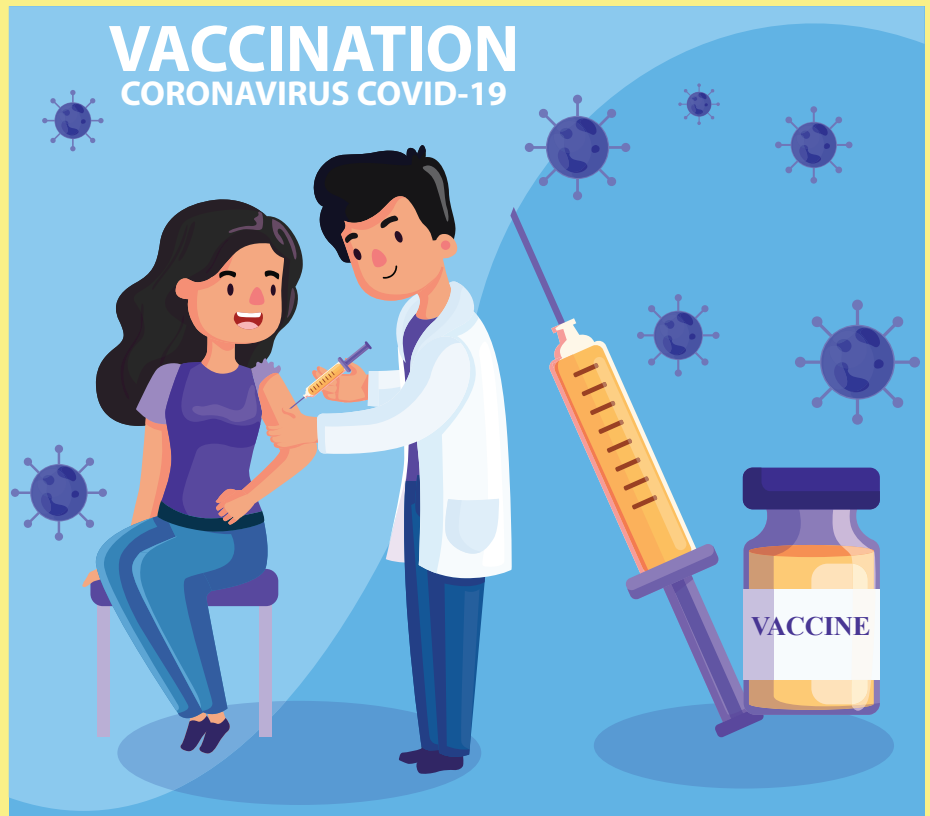
The Commission on Human Rights, Commissioner Gana shares the inspired vision of the World Health Organization (WHO) in which peoples of the world attain and promote the highest possible level of health and to “keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable”.

At the same time, Commissioner Gana emphasized that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

“It is thus the responsibility of the developed nations to exert equal efforts and focus in distributing and sharing the Covid-19 vaccines to other countries, as they would to their own people,” she said.

After all, the achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all, she said.

Equally important, Commissioner Gana stressed, is that vaccines must be affordable to everyone in every country so that the targeted herd immunity would not be limited



to the population of a particular country but to the rest of the global population.

This is the clarion call that as a global community every nation in advancing this universal human right to health must act towards one another in the spirit of brotherhood.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the fundamental human right to social security, the protection of their health, and preservation of life through international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State.

Commissioner Gana stressed that the health of all people around the world is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent on the fullest co-operation of individuals and States.

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of each individual, including medical care and necessary health services, and the right to security in the event of sickness, Commissioner Gana said.



Paglaum

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Hanns Seidel Foundation

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Good Governance, Federalism talks held From Page 1

By Clarisse Aquino

Even with the difficulties faced by our nation brought by the Covid 19 pandemic, aggravated by the series of typhoons and natural calamities that hit the country, the national discourse on federalism and other issues of national importance still continues, in our efforts to keep our people enlightened and informed.

Yet with these natural disasters that have come, we are drawn to ponder whether federalism would be a system that would be more responsive in addressing the peoples' needs in times of calamities. We note that it is the local governments, which are in the frontlines in providing the urgent needs of our people in times of emergencies.

We ask: what if the country had already adopted the federal system of government, would our leaders better equipped to deal with the country's problems?

Would the government have been more effective in addressing this pandemic? With these questions it is imperative to conduct seminars and series of lectures.

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance in partnership with the Hanns Siedel Foundation-Philippine Office, undertook relevant efforts to strategize the most effective medium possible to disseminate information and exchange ideas. They were able

28 November 2020
(Saturday) 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Pimentel Institute Memorial Lecture Series

Topic: "BAYANIHAN FEDERALISM Draft Constitution For A Strong and Indissoluble Republic."

via zoom (Registration required)

SPEAKER
Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno
Chairman, Constitutional Committee to Review the 1987 Constitution

REACTORS
Dean Ronald Mendoza, Ateneo School of Governance
Mr. Raphael Montes, Jr., CLRG-UPNCPAG

Welcome Remarks: Dean Ederson Tapia, University of Makati

Message: Mr. Götz Heinicke, HSF Resident Representative

Emcee/Moderator: Dr. Alex Brillantes, Jr., University of the Philippines

to hold open discussions with stakeholders on the significance of Federalism especially in times of crisis, covering a meaningful discussion on the proposed Draft Federal Constitution. This was done by conducting online seminars and the publication of online newsletters to reach out to the concerned parties.

Under the present circumstances, the most effective method to continue our programs is through online seminar. A Zoom was used to invite participants to join the seminar.

Through these online seminars, we established and promoted two-way communication between public individuals, elected representatives, and government officials, who can help people better understand vital and current issues. It raised awareness of the people on how a

crisis can be addressed in a Federal set up, and motivate the public to be advocates and serve as a source that spark interaction with those having similar interests.

The Project entailed continuing with the series of seminars on Federalism. The Project objectives are to educate, inform and apprise people of what Federalism is and how it can help better their lives by partnering with the different Local Government Units all over the country. These activities increased awareness and perked a renewed momentum in in terms of interest and understanding Federalism and hopefully gain wider acceptance of a shift towards Federalism.

For year 2020, PILG in partnership with the Hanns Siedel Foundation, was able to conduct the online seminars, focusing on the agenda of



Reactor: Dean Rolando Mendoza, Ateneo School of Governance



Reactor: Mr. Raphael Montes, JR., CLRG - UPNCPAG



Emcee/Moderator: Prof. Alex Brillantes, Jr., University of the Philippines

federalism and good governance:

1. October 10, 2020 - joined by around 333 participants, composed of local government officials, academe, NGOs, media and students. It was a seminar online discussing the implication of the internal revenue allotment to the local government units leading the discussion on federalism, the insinuation what if we adopted the system. The speakers for the event were Provincial Governor of Batangas Hermilando Mandanas, DILG Undersecretary Marivel Sacendoncillo, and the reactors were Ms. Sandra Paredes and Dean Joel Tan Torres.

2. November 7, 2020 - The Batang Transformers Alumni from Batch I to VI, come together to celebrate the 1st Batang Transformers Alumni Grand Reunion. It was a virtual event via Zoom. It was attended by more than 100 BT alumni.

The Batang Transformers Training Camp has been very successful in building bridges of friendship, breaking down barriers, erasing prejudices, and promoting tolerance among the emerging youth leaders of the country. The program has also sown the seeds of lifelong friendships. These young leaders returned to their communities inspired with the vision of National Transformation and are equipped to be catalysts of change.

It was also the aim of the event to bring together the BT alumni to prepare them to be part of the PILG

10 October 2020
Saturday
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Seminar Online
Meeting ID: 826 0029 9549
Passcode: PILG2020

Speakers

Hon. Hermilando "Dodo" Mandanas
Governor, Province of Batangas

Usec. Marivel Sacendoncillo
Department of the Interior
and Local Government

Topic:
"The Future of Local Governance: Implications of the Supreme Court Decision on the Mandanas Case on the Finances and Internal Revenue Allotment of Local Governments."

Welcome Remarks: Dean Ederson Tapia
Message from the Partner: Mr. Gotz Heinicke
Program Moderator: Dr. Alex Brillantes, Jr.

For more details:
Clarisse/ 09175014356

programs and make them aware of the national issues like pandemic and issues on federalism, so that these young people will fully understand its importance and implications to society.

3. November 28, 2020, attended by more than 200 participants via zoom and FB page, composed of local government officials, academe, students and media people. It was a seminar online on the Bayanihan Federalism Draft Constitution.

The program format was that speakers and reactors discussed topics assigned to them, and followed by an open forum. The participants were given the opportunity to ask questions directly to the discussants.

As cited above, the participants of the forum were composed of media practitioners, LGU Officials, Heads of different organizations, members of the academe and students. They

were as catalysts for action, to bring the people together to discuss issues of common concern, ideas can be exchanged that lead to action and help educate and publicize the topic on Federalism.

Every forum was attended by more or less one hundred participants.

Renowned speakers and reactors knowledgeable and with deep understanding of the topics graced the affairs. To mention some, we have, Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, and reactors Dean Rolando Mendoza and Mr. Raphael Montes. They addressed the concerns and apprehensions raised by the participants, and the issues were fully discussed and responded.

During the forum, participants were very active in asking questions. Such as the timeline of proposal; sharing of powers between the national and the federated regions; fiscal



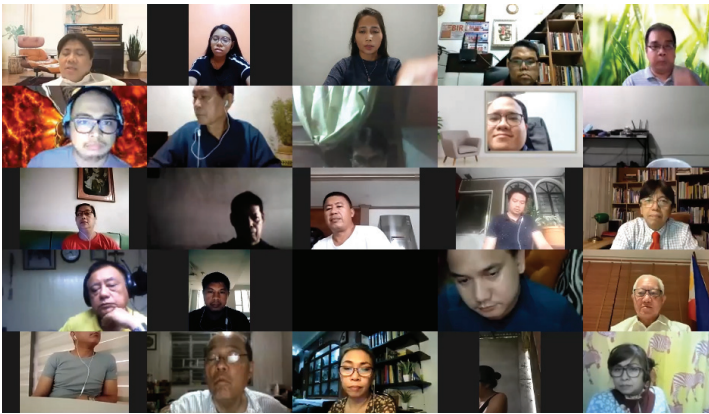
Reactor: Sandra Paredes, University of the Philippines



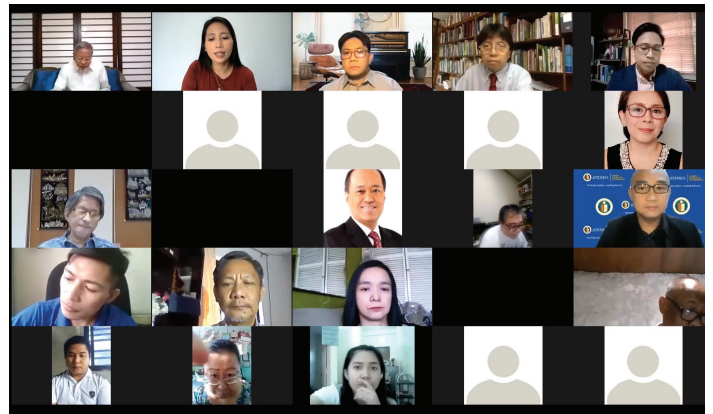
Reactor: Dean Joel Tan Torres, College of Business Administration, UP.



Welcome Remarks: Dean Ederson Tapia, University of Makati



Screenshot of "The Future of Local Governance" seminar-online via zoom, October 10, 2020



Screenshot of "Bayanihan Federalism" seminar-online via zoom, November 28, 2020

administration; the readiness of the Philippines to be federalized; political dynasty; and what the government is doing to increase the awareness of the people about federalism.

The participants confirmed that the information provided on the aspects of federalism and the Draft Federal Constitutions is relevant. They were able to identify the challenges and problems that need to be considered in the introduction of a federal system in the country.

After every forum, the HSF provided the participants with evaluation form, and the result was optimistic. The knowledge and understanding of participants on the adoption of a federal system of government in the Philippines, as well as about international experiences with federalism have a great impact to them.

Overall, the participants welcomed the opportunity to immerse more about federalism and the Bayanihan Federal Constitution. Most of the

respondents acknowledged having gained insights about federalism, and especially key features of the Draft Charter. However, some responses also exposed a need for more information on the topic and further clarification of certain aspects.

Since the lack of knowledge and understanding of the people is still a real challenge and the information needs to reach an even broader public, it was suggested by the attendees to conduct more forum, to help the public understand Federalism as a system of government and the proposed Draft Constitution for the Republic.

Whether federalism will eventually be adopted by the present or future administration, what is important is to continue the pursuit of informing, educating our people on the basic principles and foundations. An enlightened public will continue to highlight the issues on Federalism.

In addition, on September 2020,

PILG also launched the on-line newsletters containing information on national issues and also discussions on federalism.

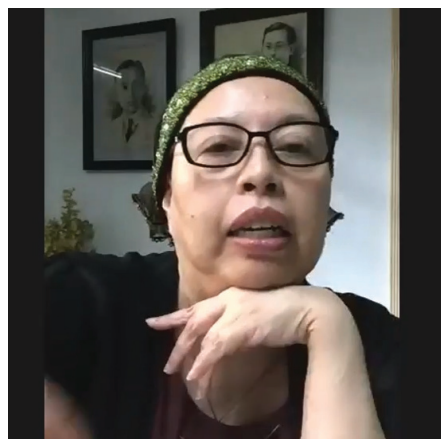
Hopefully, we can continue with our program on Federalism, with the support of HSF, to wit:

1. Seminar Online on Federalism
 - Bayanihan Federalism Draft Lecture Series
 - Local Governance/Devolution/Decentralization
 - Panayan/Dialogue
2. Online Newsletter (*Paglaum/ Hope*)
3. Youth Program
 - Seminar Online or
 - Classroom online discussion
 - Training for the new batches Batang Transformers Program

PILG would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our partners and sponsors for their constant support to the PILG's programs.



Message: Mr. Götz Heinicke, HSF Philippines Office



Closing Remarks: Comm. Gwen Pimentel-Gana, Pimentel Institute



Program Moderator: Clarisse Aquino, Pimentel Institute

BT Alumni Reunites

From Page 1

in their communities and society considering that BT is an organized and like-minded group of young leaders across the country.

The Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance with its sponsors and partners, the Villar Sipag Foundation, Bronta of Belgium, Hanns Seidel Foundation-Philippine Office, Philip Sanctuary, and Philippine Society for Public Administration decided to continue with the BT program taking into consideration the “new normal” way of life. The virtual BT reunion is just the start of the new strategy adapted by PILG & it’s partners in ensuring the engagement of the youth through the exchange of ideas and continued sharing of experiences.

Under the present circumstances, the most effective method to continue our programs is through online conferences and trainings. Therefore, PILG will continue to organize BT virtual camp seminars in the coming year.



The theme of the BT reunion Activity was “BATANG TRANSFORMERS 1ST GRAND REUNION A Virtual Platform to Reunite the Batang Transformers, “With Open Hands, Nothing Is Impossible”

The Batang Transformers Alumni from Batch I to VI, came together to celebrate the 1st Batang Transformers Alumni Grand Reunion on November 7, 2020. It was a virtual event via Zoom. It was attended by more than 100 BT alumni.

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breaking down barriers, erasing prejudices, and promoting tolerance among the emerging youth leaders of the country. The program has also sown the seeds of lifelong friendships. These young leaders returned to their communities imbued with the vision of National Transformation and are equipped to be catalysts of change.

It was also the aim of the event to bring together the BT alumni to prepare them to be part of PILG programs and make them aware of national issues like the pandemic and issues on federalism, so that these young people will fully understand

SPEAKERS AND INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES



Senator Cynthia Villar



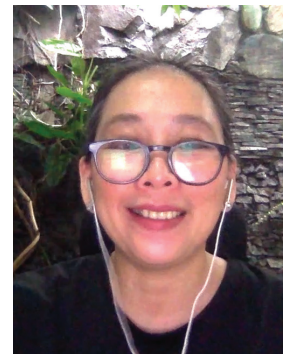
Senator Koko Pimentel



Comm. Gwen Pimentel
Gana



Mr. Götz Heinicke, HSF
Philippines Office



Ms. Marissa Pestaño Basild,
Phillip's Sanctuary



Prof. Melba Agni



Prof. Pepito Sumayan



Pastor King Flores



Pastor Roy Carandang



Nanay Bing Pimentel



Special Guest: Joey Ayala



Workshop: Pauline Bautista



Program Moderator: Clarisse Aquino

its importance and implications to society.

We started our program with prayers led by Pastor king Flores and Mr. Pepito Sumayan.

Inspirational messages were given by speakers and partners like Senator Cynthia Villar, Senator Koko Pimentel, PILG President Gwendolyn Pimentel Gana, Mr. Gotz Heinicke, Dean Alex Brillantes, Ms. Marissa Pestano Basilad, Pastor Roy Carandang, Prof. Melba Agni and Nanay Bing Pimentel.

To make it also a learning experience to the participants there was a zoom workshop entitled “Suridiwa for Peace”, facilitated by Ms. Pauline Bautista.

To motivate our BT Alumni, we also invited the singer songwriter Mr. Joey Ayala, who shared his two compositions entitled, “Everything is possible and Open Hands”.

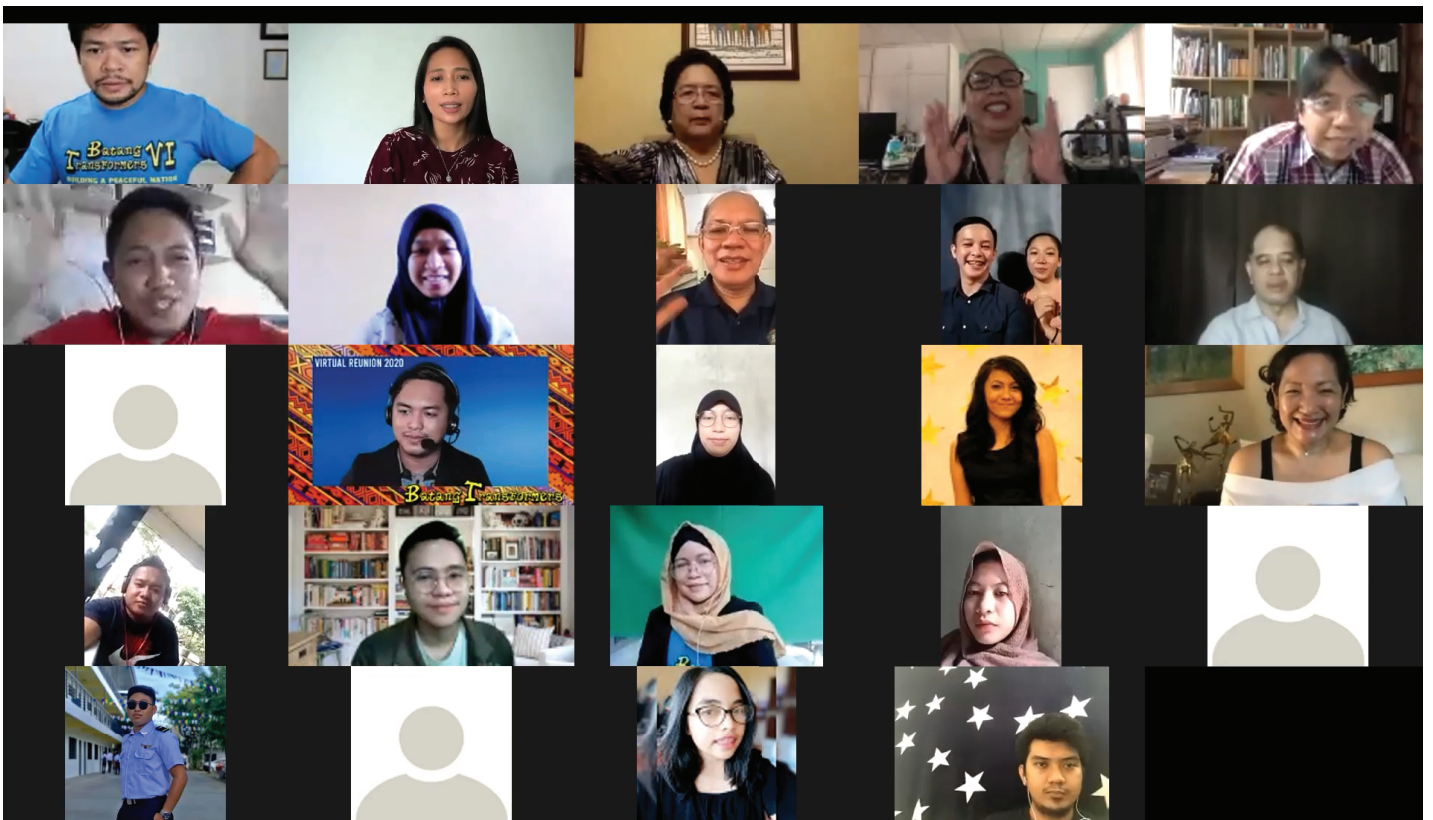
Also, part of the program were the video presentations of each batch showing their activities in the training camp before becoming a

fully-fledged Batang transformers.

To lighten the mood of the event, the BTs had games too.

We are looking forward to continue with our Batang Transformers Youth Program with the help of our sponsors and partners in the years to come. Thank you. God bless us all.

(Note: You can watch the entire BT program on our PILG FB Page and YouTube channel. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/F2QAU2PvyUc>)



Screenshot of participants of “BT Reunion 2020” seminar-online via zoom, November 7, 2020

HSF 50 SHADES OF FEDERALISM

By Clarisse Aquino



Screenshots of the online Publication Launch of the 50 Shades of Federalism, December 22, 2020.

Before the we end the year 2020, an online Publication Launch “Shades of Federalism” Philippines was held last December 22, 2020. This publication is a joint initiative of 50 Shades of Federalism and of the Hanns Seidel Foundation - Philippine Office and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance.

50 Shades of Federalism is a project established in October 2017 at Canterbury Christ Church University to help inform debate about many issues related to the topic of ‘federalism’.

It is our hope that this publication will contribute to the different debates on federalism, and will inspire people to continue to discuss and debate federalism and its advantages and disadvantages in the Philippines.

In the Philippines, two authors shared about their respective pieces in this publication and they are Atty. Michael Henry Ll. Yusingco Senior Research Fellow at the Ateneo Policy Center of the Ateneo School of Government, Ateneo de Manila University and Mr. Raymund John P. Rosuelo Chief of the Research and Knowledge Management Division of the Commission of Human Rights of Philippines. Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr. from the

University of the Philippines and former Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education, moderated the said launching.

Part also of the program is the discussion of Dr. Soeren Keil, Academic Director of 50 Shades of Federalism, Reader in Politics and International Relations at Canterbury Christ Church University. He talked about the background of 50 Shades of Federalism

Undersecretary Ryan L. Estevez, Executive Director, Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Commission on Higher Education, also joined the launch and talked about the importance of the 50 shades of federalism publication especially to the academe.

This publication will help us to better understand what federalism is. The experiences of other countries before they became federal countries, can provide guidance for those planning to shift to a federal system of government such as the Philippines.

Those who want to get a copy of the book, may contact HSF office and Pimentel Institute. The copy is distributed free of charge.



HSF Resident Representative Mr. Götz Heinicke presented the copies of the 50 Shades of Federalism books.