

Local officials from the barangay to the municipal, city and provincial levels can now upgrade their governance skills through the Center for Local Governance headed by former Senate President Aquilino “Nene” Q. Pimentel, Jr.

At the formal inauguration of the Center on June 1, Nene Pimentel said: “Good governance means not only knowing and implementing what man-made laws -- mainly the Constitution and the Local Government Code -- mandate but also the spiritual or moral values that underline the whys and wherefores of public service.”

Former Senator Pimentel, the author of the Local Government Code of 1991, said the Center also seeks to “strengthen the moral fiber of our local officialdom to resist corruption in all manner or form and set the stage for the transformation of the nation.”

Mr. Pimentel acknowledged the encouragement and support of Vice President Jejomar Binay and University of Makati headed by its President, Prof. Tom Lopez. The Center is located within the

University
of
Makati

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Since its founding seven months ago, the Center has already conducted a number of seminars on good governance for barangay officials and NGOs, POs and concerned citizens in general, as well as specific modules for higher local government officials.

These seminars have been held at the University of Makati and in various parts of the country, such as Ilagan,
Subic

,
Cabanatuan
, Lucena, Legazpi,
Palawan

,
Cebu
and
Davao

, to spread the theme of national transformation.

Nene Pimentel Launches Center for Local Governance - MabuhayRadio

Written by Nene Pimentel's Press Office
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Mr. Pimentel emphasized that “unless we embark on the mission of national transformation now, no matter what the odds might be, there will be no second time for us in this lifetime. Thus, even as we are in the eventide of our lives, we are determined ‘to build a bridge and span the tide’ that blocks local government officials from delivering good governance to their constituents.”

Through the Center, Nene Pimentel said, “we will probably make the work easier for others who harbor similar dreams of bringing about our nation’s transformation.”

“We would like to see ourselves as cooperators -- not competitors -- in the work of national transformation,” he added.

Explaining how the Center came about, Mr. Pimentel said many people had urged him to come out of retirement from public life and found an institute through which he could share with local officials and concerned citizens some basic insights he had acquired on local governance over the years.

Nene Pimentel pointed out that with the country's 42,020 barangays, 1,511 municipalities, 122 cities, and 80 provinces, local officials can help immensely in a program for national transformation.

“Happily we realize that we are not actually starting from a scratch. Many well-meaning citizens, churches and evangelical groups have done their bit to advance the cause of national transformation earlier than us. We also believe that if one's cause -- like the Center's aim for national transformation -- springs from pure motives and is pursued through good methods, that cause aligns itself with the Almighty with whom nothing is impossible.”

The blessing of the Center coincided with the launching of a book that traces the evolution of Makati from a nondescript municipality into what is now a bustling metropolis during the term of Jojo Binay as Makati Mayor. # # #