



PEOPLE POWER GOVERNANCE:

LOCAL MECHANISMS
FOR PARTICIPATION
& ACCOUNTABILITY

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FOR PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

NOVEMBER 2013



People Power Governance: Local Mechanisms for Participation and Accountability
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ISBN _____

Printed and bound in Manila, Philippines.

Published by

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ABOUT the COVER

The cover depicts “kapit bisig” with people’s collective action as backdrop to symbolize the strength of the people. There can be nothing more powerful than people together in arms participating in governance and in ensuring accountability in its government.

Photocredits to: ABS-CBN Foundation website for the “kapit bisig” image.



FOREWORD

The People Power Revolution of 1986 paved the way for the restoration of formal political democracy and the opening of spaces for citizens' engagement in politics and governance. The 1987 Constitution and the Local Government Code of 1991 and other laws provided the legal basis and enhanced the opportunities to engage government. Citizens and their organizations were recognized as vital to local and national development, and bodies for participatory governance such as the local development council were institutionalized by law. As the years progressed, challenges and roadblocks were encountered, and practices and models of citizens' participation emerged to address these. Two of these exemplary practices in transparent, participatory and accountable governance became the focus of this study.

The Administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III has declared its commitment to a platform of good governance and poverty reduction. This has renewed the arena of citizens' engagement in democratic governance. Government-initiated programs such as the Full Disclosure Policy, Seal of Good Housekeeping and Bottom-up Budgeting have created the new spaces for participatory governance. The citizens are reminded to take an active role in addressing their most pressing concerns, and promote the practice of "People Power Governance".

It is in this spirit of People Power Governance that these case studies came to be, to understand better how these two initiatives came to advance democratic governance in their respective areas. Amidst poverty, graft and corruption, these two cases may seem to be exceptions, as the few small "islands" of good governance. We hope that local and participatory governance practitioners may utilize these case studies to promote good governance throughout our archipelago. It is our hope that we see People Power Governance as the norm instead of the exception.

CODE-NGO
November 2013



Executive Director Dodo Macasaet of CODE-NGO (second from left) shares a light moment before the People Power Governance Forum, with the champions of People Power Governance: Mayor Matt Palabrica of Bingawan, Rep. Leni Robredo from Camarines Sur, and Rep. Kaka Bag-ao from Dinagat Islands. The forum was held on July 24, 2013 in Quezon City where the results of the case studies were shared to members of the media

Rep. Leni Robredo answers a question from media. From L to R, Ramiro Samar, NCPC Chairperson, Mayor Matt Palabrica, Dodo Macasaet of CODE-NGO, Rep. Leni Robredo, Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, Oliver Fandino, Chairperson of the Alaminos Federation of CSOs, and Pastor Rudy Manzano of the Alaminos Federation of CSOs.





ACKNOWLEDGMENT & DEDICATION

Acknowledgement

CODE-NGO would like to express gratitude to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), whose support made this publication possible. We would like to acknowledge the Municipality of Bingawan and the Naga City People's Council (NCPC), especially to Mayor Matt Palabrica of Bingawan, Iloilo and Mr. Johann de la Rosa, Program Director of the NCPC, for their kind participation and great contribution to these case studies.

We would also like to thank the following for devoting their time in sharing their experiences and insights on the NCPC and the *Pamangkutanon sang Banwa* (PsB): Servillano Intia, Jr. (Senior Citizens Rep. - NCPC), Christopher Molin (PWD Rep. - NCPC), Nelia Sapalicio (Barangay People's Council Rep. - NCPC), Marvin P. Saladar and Ronelo Q. Compas (Project Management Team, PsB), and Vice Mayor Mark Palabrica of Bingawan, Iloilo.

Finally, we would like to thank Emmanuel "Boyet" Areno and the staff of the Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs (WEVNET), and Joy Oropesa-Bañares of the Coalition for Bicol Development (CBD) for extending a helping hand in the fieldwork, and Christine De Villa, Gertrudes "Gigi" Bartulaba, Patrick Wilson Lim, and other members of the CODE-NGO secretariat for their valuable support.

Katherine Asence, our Research Writer, native of Naga City and volunteer by heart, would like to thank and acknowledge her family members.

Dedication:

This publication is dedicated to Jesse M. Robredo, former Mayor of Naga City and former Secretary of Interior and Local Government, whose leadership, example, and memory stands for genuine public service and the promotion of participatory and accountable local governance. *Maraming salamat, Sec. Jesse.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The need for good governance is even more palpable these days. Various initiatives sprouted from all over the Philippines but few were able to successfully get through the rigors of institutionalization. On that note and with the project entitled “Deepening Democratic Governance through an Active Citizenry”, CODE-NGO has prepared case studies on two of the best practices on local mechanisms for citizen participation and accountability: the “*Pamangkutanon sang Banwa*” (Citizen’s Query) and the Naga City People’s Council (NCPC).

The “*Pamangkutanon sang Banwa*” is an initiative in Bingawan, Iloilo. What was once a sleepy town is now a champion of transparency and participatory local governance. The people of Bingawan now have a venue for feedback, recommendations, and performance assessment of local officials - the public accountability forum. Meanwhile, the NCPC was able to win the support of the city government despite the challenges of its early years. The initiative impressed many for it concretely established the partnership between civil society and the local government.

Both *Pamangkutanon* and NCPC are multi-awarded and are based on Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, which promotes the active participation of people’s organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs) in local governance.

The case studies describe how the *Pamangkutanon sang Banwa* (PsB) and the NCPC evolved into successful good governance initiatives from the day they were conceived. Some of the aspects tackled are the context, history, components, challenges, and sustainability mechanisms. Ultimately, the aim of the case studies is to share and encourage replicability of the PsB and NCPC among interested groups or potential leaders of good governance in various areas.





SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION

“Pamangkutanon sang Banwa”

Context

It is common to see politicians on a roll during campaign periods. They would usually promise heaven and earth to the potential voters. Voters would just react sometimes with a sneer, a snort or a hasty remark on how it is becoming repetitive and a routine until the winners are finally announced. Then, it stops there. That was not the case in the quiet town of Bingawan in Iloilo province. A distinct and powerful participatory governance initiative was crafted before and after the elections. This initiative is called the “*Pamangkutanon sang Banwa: Kwentahan hindi Kwentuhan*” (Citizen’s Query: Accountability, not Lip Service).

Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 encouraged the active participation of people’s organizations (POs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) in local governance. This RA 7160 mandate served as the inspiration for the eventual enactment of the Municipal Ordinance No. 4, “An Ordinance establishing the ‘*Pamangkutanon sang Banwa*’ in the Municipality of Bingawan, province of Iloilo and providing funds therefor”.

Objectives

The general objective of the *Pamangkutanon sang Banwa* (PsB) is to address the lack of feedback mechanisms between the municipal government and its constituents and to promote transparency, accountability and the participation of the Bingawan residents in local governance. The specific objectives of the initiative are to institute regular municipal assemblies as a venue to raise issues/concerns and recommendations on the delivery of basic services; set up transparency and accountability mechanisms for public officials’ performance assessment; replicate the program at the barangay level and other municipalities; promote ‘performance politics’; practice appropriate skills in planning, programming, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and have pro-active people’s participation in governance processes.

History

It was in the late 1990s when the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) Bingawan Chapter started its partnership with the Bingawan Working Youth Federation (which is assisted by the Department

of Labor and Employment), the parish priest (Reverend Father Abelardo Sobredo), the Baptist Church and the Iloilo Caucus of Development NGOs (ICODE). They organized forums for the candidates and conducted an information and education campaign for the voters. They formed two teams. Each team covered 7 barangays. At every mass, the schedule for the voter's education sessions was announced to the churchgoers.

After this, through multi-stakeholder consultations involving various civil society organizations (CSOs), the "*Pamangkutanon sang Banwa*" was conceptualized. On April 29, 2004, a candidates' forum took place and the candidates were requested to sign the Performance Evaluation Covenant (PEC) which included their commitment to attend the "performance evaluation" forums (*Pamangkutanon sang Banwa*).

The first draft of the Ordinance regarding the *Pamangkutanon sang Banwa* was submitted on July 7, 2004 and was enacted in October 2004. The first conduct of the PsB was on February 14, 2005.

Major Components of PsB

The PsB is an initiative being handled by the Project Management Team (PMT) which is composed of representatives from various civil society organizations accredited by the Bingawan Local Government Unit, the Sanggunian (designated by the vice mayor), and the Executive Committee of PsB. The PMT is responsible for the project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and takes care of logistics.

The Project Management Team of PsB

NAME	POSITION
Ronelo Q. Compas	Chairperson- PPCRV
Rhylyn Mallorca	Vice- Chairperson- Cooperative (Kabalikat)
Marvin P. Saladar	Secretary- Youth (Bingawan Working Youth Federation)
Elma A. Gardose	Member- Academe/High School (Bingawan National High School)
Gervacio Genturo Jr.	Member- Academe/Transport(Bingawan Central Elementary School/ Bingawan Calinog Jeepney Owners Driver's Association)
Elmer C. Pamocol	Member- Farmer (Bingawan Farmer's Association)
Emily Totica	Member- DepEd High School
Rezel Montilla	Member- Legislative
Pastor Lowell Leysa	Member- Religious (Bingawan Baptist Church)
Rev. Fr. Gabriel Esperancilla	Member- PPRCV/Religious (Bingawan Parish)
Mara Joy Castillanes	Member- Youth (Supreme Student Government-Bingawan National High School)
Jemaima Billones	Member- LGU Executive
Matilde Solanib	Member- Liga ng mga Barangay
Arlene Pet	Member- Women
Romeo Quimba	Member- Senior Citizen
Gideon Palmejar	Member- ICODE NGOs
Joy L. Quimba	Member- Business (Bingawan Business Organization)
Melisande P. Guarizo	Member- Market Vendors(Market Vendors Association of Bingawan)
Rona Kristie Porras	Member- Secretariat

The CSOs act as members of the screening committee, panelists, moderators and other PsB working groups during the PsB.

The Executive Committee’s duty is to establish policies, decisions, and to coordinate the roles of different PsB committees and officers.

The Executive Committee of PsB

1. Municipal Chief Executive	Chairperson
2. Chairperson of the Committee on Good Governance of the SB	Vice Chairperson
3. Representative from PPCRV	Member/Convenor
4. NGO/PO Representative Appointed by the respective members of the NGOs/POs	Member/Convenor
5. Municipal Local Government Operations Officer (DILG)	Member/Convenor

PsB or the Citizen’s Query starts during the election period. The first activity is the candidates’ signing of the Performance Evaluation Covenant (PEC) declaring their agreement to subject themselves to the PsB.

In Bingawan, the PsB is done on the 2nd Monday of February and July of every year.

An open invitation is given to the public for the PsB assemblies. Information about the event is circulated through public announcements on paper (e.g. invitations given to the fourteen barangay captains) and by word of mouth. Municipal vehicles are also sent to remote areas to announce the PSBs and encourage ample representation from the barangays.

During the PsBs, the participants are asked to write on a piece of paper their questions, concerns and suggestions about the government programs in Bingawan as well as the promises of the candidates during the past forum. These are then placed in drop boxes which are submitted to the Screening Committee. All questions that are considered as “below the belt” or personal attacks against the officials will be screened out. The questions that pass the screening are read aloud by the panelists. The members of the screening committee and panelists/moderators are from the civil society organizations. The Department Heads and the local officials of Bingawan will then answer the questions. Apart from the PsB itself, groups involved in the PsB also participate in lobbying for priority policies and ordinances and are engaged in capacity building and networking activities. They also advocate for the replication of the PsB in the surrounding communities.

“

Municipal vehicles are also sent to remote areas to announce the PSBs and encourage ample representation from the barangays.

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Funding Requirement

The PsB receives an annual LGU subsidy derived from the 20% Development Fund of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). It amounted to about P 20,000 per year in 2011 and 2012. The PsB has also been awarded by various programs that recognize innovations in governance. For instance, Bingawan has won a one million peso (P1,000,000) project grant for one year from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Transparent and Accountable Governance (TAG) Project being implemented by The Asia Foundation.

Gains/Benefits

The PsB is a performance-based form of governance which concretely addresses the need for a feedback mechanism, transparency and accountability within Bingawan. The public is now empowered, assertive of its rights and encouraged to respectfully question the performance of their leaders and give recommendations in order to achieve synergy in governance. It pressured the candidates and officials to think first before making promises to the voters because this is all about “*kwentahan*” not “*kwentuhan*”.

The PsB paved the way for better delivery and implementation of projects and programs (Economic Services, Agriculture and Economic Services, Social Services, and General Public Services) in the municipality. A constructive engagement approach is the best way for CSO-LGU partnership according to Emmanuel Areno, the Executive Director of ICODE. Moreover, an effective citizen monitor generates interests from donor partners and provides assurance that their investments will be used effectively and efficiently. Thus, Bingawan has been able to achieve significant accomplishments in the past years, including:

I. Economic Services

1. The approval of the Amended Revenue Code of 2008, Market Code of 2008, and Tax Amnesty for the Province of Iloilo as requested by the Municipality of Bingawan raised local revenue collection.
2. Repaired 100 units of Small Farm Reservoirs (SFR), making Bingawan as the SFR Capital of the Philippines

II. Social Services

1. Bingawan ranks no. 1 in Iloilo Province in Day Care services with 20 Day Care Centers in 14 barangays.
2. Establishment of Bingawan National High School Extension Tapacon Campus (SY2009)
3. Paid P174,000.00 for 2004 and 2005 arrears of LGU to PhilHealth and enrolled 97% of indigent families making Bingawan number 1 (CY 2008-2009) in PhilHealth Indigents Program in the whole province of Iloilo
4. Full implementation of P11M worth of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services: Kaunlaran at Kapangyarihan sa Barangay (KALAHI-CIDSS:KKB) projects which include 1 Health Center, 1 Travelling Rice Mill, 2 Level II Water System and 9 Road Upgrading projects
5. Approval of the Code for the Protection of Children
6. Conducted Children’s Theater Arts Workshop in 2008 which gave birth to Pagnahi-an Festival

III. General Public Services

1. Implemented Citizen’s Charter
2. Solid Waste Management Board was reorganized/reconvened and the 10-year Ecological Solid Waste Management Plan (2008-2018) was formulated

Key Factors for the Success and Sustainability of PsB

Several factors became the sustaining ground for the *Pamangkutanon sang Banwa*:

- 1) The Local Chief Executive was openly supportive of the program;
- 2) Many groups or sectors actively participate in the PsB like the youth, academe, farmers, religious, women, barangay officials, senior citizens, and business. Electoral initiatives like voter’s education promoted awareness among the citizenry and motivated them to join the collective effort to promote better governance;

- 3) Institutionalization of the PsB through Municipal Ordinance No. 4;
- 4) Integration of the cost of PsB in the Annual Investment Plan (AIP); and
- 5) Strong linkages of PsB with other organizations such as the Iloilo Caucus of Development NGOs (ICODE). Networks such as the ICODE helped in the supporting effective initiatives of partners and modeling partnership in joint project implementation (e.g. EU TAG PHE Project) lobbying and possible replication of PsB in the fourteen barangays as well as in nearby municipalities.

Major Challenges

PsB is an evolving participatory form of governance and it has its own share of challenges.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED	HOW THESE WERE RESOLVED
1. Passive attitude of the members of the community/barangay leaders	Capacity-building activities like leadership training, and sustained invitation for them to be actively involved in the PsB activities.
2. Difficulty in information dissemination due to the remoteness of the barangays and bad road networks.	Public announcements concerning information about PsB are broadcasted on 100.1 FM (K3 Radio) every Friday at 11 am-1pm. The program is titled "Talk of the Town: Bingawan Radio Program" anchored by Vice Mayor Mark Palabrica and Bingawan Tourism Officer Marvin Saladar. Municipal dump trucks are also utilized as service transport for the various barangays during PsB.
3. Insufficient Fund for PsB operations	The money from the Galing Pook Award and the DILG (Seal of Good Housekeeping) was channeled as a trust fund for the PsB operations.
4. No specific Office for the PsB	Website has been set up so the people of Bingawan can feedback through the website of PsB; Public announcements concerning information about PsB are broadcasted on 100.1 FM (K3 Radio).

Replicability

The past eight years were really productive for the *Pamangkutanon sang Banwa*. The PsB was recognized nationally and internationally for its exemplary efforts in the field of good governance and social accountability. Its advocacy for replication was carried on to all the 14 barangays of Bingawan.

1. Brgy. Agbao	- "Ipaathag sa Barangay"
2. Brgy. Alabidhan	- "Paathag sa Barangay"
3. Brgy. Bulabog	- "Hinun-anon sa Barangay"
4. Brgy. Cairohan	- "Hinun-anon sa Barangay"
5. Brgy. Guinhulacan	- "Ipahayag sa Barangay"
6. Brgy. Inamyungan	- "Klarohon sa Barangay"
7. Brgy. Malitbog Ilaya	- "Ang Kamatooran sa Barangay"
8. Brgy. Malitbog Ilawod	- "Ipabutyag sa Barangay"
9. Brgy. Ngingian	- "Kamatuoran sa Barangay"
10. Brgy. Poblacion	- "Paalinton sa Barangay"
11. Brgy. Quinangyana	- "Ipahayag sa Barangay"
12. Brgy. Quinar-upan	- "Kaathagan sa Barangay"
13. Brgy. Tapacon	- "Ipahayag sa Barangay"
14. Brgy. Tubod	- "Ipabutyag sa Barangay"

Invitations were given to the Municipality of Bingawan to present the successful initiative particularly from the Municipalities of Tapaz and Banate, Municipality of Tangalan, Aklan, and the Province of Capiz. Some would even go on exposure visits to Bingawan like the LGU of Kapangan, Benguet.

Some requirements for replicability are:

- 1) Proactive communities and strong political will of the people and their leaders. There is that collective hunger for change;
- 2) Strategic information and education campaigns (IEC) for people empowerment;
- 3) An ordinance that would institutionalize the PsB and promote its sustainability, including the incorporation of the PsB cost in the AIP of the LGU; and
- 4) Strong and active participation of the people's organizations, non-government organizations, and other civil society organizations.



A CONTINUING LEGACY

The Naga City People's Council

Context

A turning point in the history of Philippine governance happened on October 10, 1991. The Local Government Code or LGC (Republic Act 7160) was enacted. It decentralized and devolved government functions leading to local autonomy. It also promoted the role of non-government and people's organizations (NGOs and POs) in local governance. With the LGC as the foundation, it was only a matter of time before the movement towards local participation and empowerment commenced in some parts of the country.

In the "Heart of Bicol", the City of Naga, the local movement for good governance and social accountability was at its peak during the early 1990s. The NGOs, POs and the Local Government of Naga collaborated in project and program implementation towards community development. A tripartism (which involves the POs, NGOs and the City Government) ensued to address local issues. But there was no formality in their engagements with regards to the function of the NGOs/POs within the city. This was until the Empowerment Ordinance of Naga City (City Ordinance No. 95-092), entitled "An Ordinance Initiating a System for Partnership in Local Governance between the City Government and the People of Naga", formalized and provided a clear legal basis for such local engagement. This paved way for the mechanism called People's Council, later known as the Naga City People's Council (NCPC) with its tagline "*Hale sa tao... Para sa tao*" ("From the people... For the people").

Objectives

"*Hale sa tao... Para sa tao*" encompasses what the Naga City People's Council represents in the arena of local governance. It is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-stock, and non-profit coalition of active sectoral and multi-sectoral NGOs and POs in Naga City. It is a mechanism that concretizes the spirit of people's participation and advances the principle of partnership in local governance" (Johann P. De la Rosa, NCPC Program Director). Overall, the NCPC systematically operates to achieve sustainable and equitable development, effective people's participation in local governance and improved quality of life for all.

Vision

The NCPC envisions Naga City as a happy home where:

- every constituent respects the dignity of all persons, are disciplined, gender-sensitive, God loving and discerning;
- everyone has access to economic opportunities and social services;
- every household lives in decent conditions;
- there is industrial peace;
- agricultural communities are maintained;
- sustainable environment is protected and nurtured;
- there is sincere cooperation between civil society and the LGU.

NCPC's vision for itself is to become a city-based NGO/PO Council where all NGOs/POs and the private sector groups are affiliated, and with every member of the network active, efficient, strong, effective, mature, and enjoying the acceptance, recognition and respect of the LGU of the City of Naga.

Mission

The mission of the NCPC is to

- a) create, articulate and realize NCPC's vision for the country and local communities through the forging and implementation of policies, strategies and programs of action towards sustainable and equitable development;
- b) enter into partnership in local governance with the city government of Naga and other willing local government units preferably within the Bicol Region;
- c) intensify barangay socio-economic development through development approach and full mobilization and maximum development of available resources it may tap or generate;
- d) fortify commitment towards social responsibility, progressive local governance and dynamic developmental technology and balanced rural-urban growth;
- e) provide venues for developmental education through the sponsorship of training programs, seminars, workshops and other activities that facilitate the achievement of these objectives;
- f) facilitate the creation of mechanisms and structures that will ensure people participation in local governance;
- g) establish social enterprise to finance the realization of the objectives stated above; and
- h) secure social financing to provide capital for social enterprises.

Early Years

Naga City is known for its advocacy for good governance geared towards transparency, accountability, predictability and participation. It is multi-awarded and has earned the respect of many of its constituents due to the social accountability and good governance initiatives throughout the years. What makes this achievement worthy of recognition is the fact that it was not created overnight but was shaped through the years through public multi-sectoral consultations of Nagueños who wanted change. Someone familiar with the history of NCPC commented that it was "*madugo*" (bloody) - not that blood was shed in those times, but because it was a truly difficult challenge for the prime movers in the city to come up with a People's Council.

Jesse Robredo first took his seat as the city mayor in 1988. The loudest of all the issues in Naga back then was urban poor settlements or securing the tenurial rights of the informal settlers. The Community Organization of the Philippines Enterprise (COPE) was tapped because they had the expertise in community organizing. There was an agenda building process and a tripartism involving the Local Government Unit of Naga, the urban poor people's organizations, and the non-government organization (COPE).

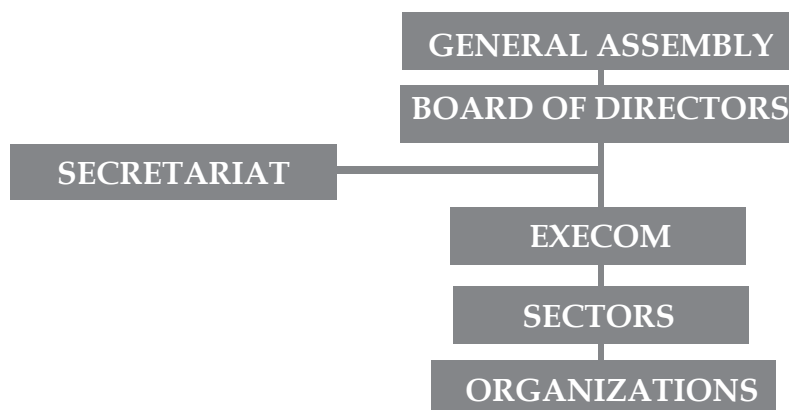
The Local Government Code (RA 7160) encouraged people empowerment, thus, a local NGO/PO People's Council was loosely established through multi-sectoral consultations. It was called the "after five groups" because they would conduct informal meetings and discuss issues after five o'clock in the afternoon. This was the pre-cursor to the current Naga City People's Council.

Come 1992 and onwards, the struggle for an institutionalized People's Council took place. Somehow it was a revolution that needed a champion in the person of Councilor Jaime S. Jacob. He was the author of the Empowerment Ordinance. In his explanatory statement for the said ordinance, he stated its main mandates as the establishment of a structure to achieve active partnership between the City Government and the People of Naga in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of government policies, projects and activities; the implementation of RA 7160 provisions on sectoral representation; and the mandate to hasten the organization of the people directly through the joint efforts of a people's council and the City Government in order to address the people's sectoral and collective concerns with minimal government intervention.

On the local government side, not everyone was happy about the proposed ordinance. Some thought of it as "*para tayong kumuha ng bato na ipupukpok sa sariling ulo*" (it is like we got a stone to bash our own head) or "*gigisahin sa sariling mantika*" (we are being cooked in our own oil). It was not easy to convince the majority of the local government officials to approve the Empowerment Ordinance, but City Mayor Robredo supported the ordinance. Ordinance No. 95-092 or The Empowerment Ordinance was enacted on December 20, 1995. With the Empowerment Ordinance in place, Resolution Nos. 96-117 and 96-411 were then submitted and approved, crucial to the institutionalization of the People's Council.

Resolution No. 96-117 is a resolution "calling for and setting, the organizational convention of the people's council on 27 April 1996, and imploring the City Mayor to appropriate the amount of twenty thousand pesos from his economic development fund for the purpose". An organizational convention of the accredited NGOs and POs and representatives of the People's Council were then held on that date at the Ateneo de Naga Gymnasium.

Resolution No. 96-411 is a resolution "recognizing the Naga City People's Council as the People's Council referred to under Section 8 of the Empowerment Ordinance. It was acknowledged there that "some 44 accredited NGOs and POs from different sectors such as peasant, urban poor, women, labor, youth and students, senior citizens, agricultural cooperatives, non-agricultural cooperatives, business, veterans, transport and children organized themselves into the Naga City People's Council with Atty. Rene Rañeses as Chairperson" on May 18, 1996. The NCPC was officially recognized by the City Council on October 30, 1996.



“
The term of office of the ExeCom members is also coterminous with the term of office of Sangguniang Panlungsod. (Code of By-Laws of NCPC)
”

The Board of Directors is a body of representatives elected by the General Assembly from the fourteen sectors and functions as the policy maker. The BoD is formed by representatives from fourteen (14) member-sectors (Barangay People’s Council, Business, Cooperative, Labor, NGO, Peasant, PWD, Senior Citizen, Transport, Urban Poor, Women, Youth, Education, and Civic Groups). The term of office of the Board Directors is coterminous with that of the *Sangguniang* Panlungsod and a Director cannot exceed three (3) consecutive terms (Code of By-Laws of NCPC). The ExeCom is made up of the Chairperson, Internal Vice-Chairperson, External Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Auditor. Each has its own unique function: the Chairperson acts as the presiding officer; the Internal Vice-Chairperson assists the Chairperson in the operations within the council; the Vice-Chairperson for External Affairs assists the Chairperson in overseeing the external operations of the council; the

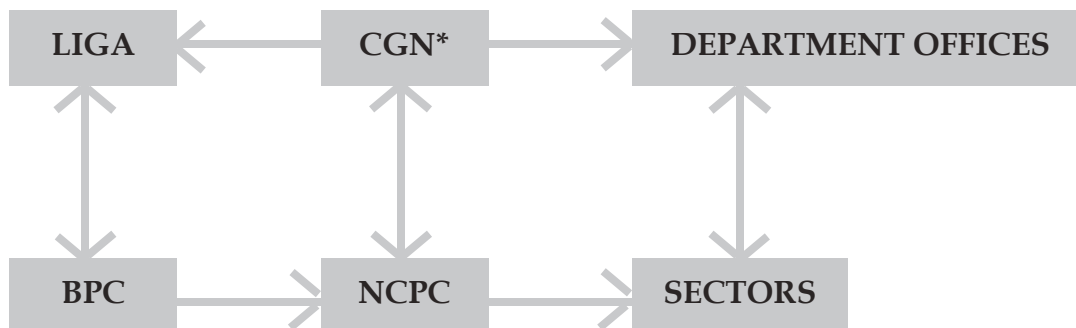
Secretary is responsible for the minutes of the meetings and informs the members and directors of meetings; and the Treasurer has custody of the funds and properties of the Council subject to what is stated in the By-laws. The term of office of the ExeCom members is also coterminous with the term of office of *Sangguniang* Panlungsod. (Code of By-Laws of NCPC)

The Secretariat is composed of one Program Director, Program Officers, Support Staff and volunteers. Its role in the council is to manage the internal and external operations as well as the logistics.

Membership in the NCPC is open to all NGOs and POs accredited by the Local Government of Naga City. There are two types of membership - regular and associate membership. Regular members are accredited NGOs and POs that signify commitment to live up to the objectives and programs of the council and to comply with the duties of a member. An associate member is an organization which is still in the process of being accredited by the LGU of Naga or has not yet fully complied with the requirements for regular membership but is willing to participate during consultations by the council. The requirements for the application for membership are the Board Resolution/official letter of intent to join the council and the submission of the names of the permanent and alternate representatives of the organization to the council. Both should be submitted to the Board Secretary who shall review the application and recommend to the BoD. The BoD is the one which decides whether to approve or disapprove the application.

NCPC's engagement at the city level includes the implementation of programs or projects, policy formulation, and participation in the undertakings of the *Sangguniang* Panlungsod (City Council of Naga). At the *barangay* level, NCPC strengthens the Barangay Development Councils (BDCs) and the Barangay People's Councils' (BPC) partnership with the Barangay Council. (De la Rosa)

Engagement Diagram of NCPC:



*City Government of Naga

The main mandated tasks of the NCPC are (a) representation and participation in all city government bodies including the committees of the *Sanggunian*, (b) promotion of Nagueños' self-organizing efforts (joint responsibility with city government), and (c) working for sectoral representatives in the *Sanggunian*. The secondary mandated tasks are participation in public hearings and consultations, referenda and plebiscites, information boards and suggestion boxes, in educational programs on Empowerment and Sustainable Development and in Sectoral Desks. (Santos, 1996)

Funding Required

The Empowerment Ordinance (Section 19) states that an annual budget appropriation shall be allotted to the People's Council. The amount appropriated when NCPC began was Php 300,000 per year, then from the early 2000s to the present it was raised to Php 800,000. Aside from the budget allocation from Naga City, NCPC collects membership fees (Php 500.00) and annual dues (Php 200.00) from its members. The NCPC also submits project proposals to grant-giving bodies and employs social enterprise in order to obtain financial sustainability.

Accomplishments so Far

NCPC has been really influential in changing the course of participatory governance in Naga. The Local Government of Naga recognizes NCPC's contribution in legislation and capacity building. For instance, the NCPC crafted the Internal Rules and Regulation of *Kaantabay sa Kauswagan* Mass Housing Strategy (Partners in Development) and Investment Board.

NCPC showed leadership by taking the role of Chairperson in the Central Business District II Terminal II Special Bidding Committee and membership in committees like Local Finance Committee.

The NCPC has also taken an active role in reviewing and taking positions on important government policies that are related to the council's cause. Specific examples were the "no to golf course" position, support to the city ordinance for the adoption of new fair market values of real properties and support for the Almeda Highway as long as the rights of the affected residents were respected. The NCPC also supported the indignation rally against the Camarines Sur Electric Company II (CASURECO II) last June 19, 2012. This was triggered when Naga City, Minalabac, and Milaor experienced around twenty-four blackouts the week before June 19.

In terms of capacity building, NCPC worked in collaboration with several organizations in the implementation of specific projects like the Ford Foundation-Initiative for Policy Dialogue; Camarines Sur NGO/PO Development Network-Philippine Business for Social Progress- Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (CADENET-PBSP-PhilDHRRRA-Barangay People's Council Organizing); Australian Agency for International Development/Philippines-Australia Governance Facility (AusAID/PAGF-Strengthening NGO-PO Capabilities through Skills Development); SALIGAN Paralegal Education Skills Advancement and Networking Technology (PESANTech;2004-2006);and Misereor (Sectoral and Barangay Strengthening Program).

“NCPC has been really influential in changing the course of participatory governance in Naga. The Local Government of Naga recognizes NCPC's contribution in legislation and capacity building.”

Key Factors for the Success and Sustainability of the Practice/Initiative

The achievements of NCPC can be attributed to different factors. Foremost are the trust, support and commitment given to the NCPC by the City Government of Naga. During the start of NCPC, not all government officials were equally supportive. They changed their impression about the people's council when they saw its numerous achievements for the city. Secondly, the presence of an effective, efficient and competent Secretariat that is the implementing arm of the NCPC board. Third is the visibility of active sectors in the council and members/leaders that can engage the local government through their own initiatives. Fourth is the financial sustainability of the council with its funding support from the city government and the initiative to find other sources of funds. Last is the willingness of the council to set new directions and creative strategies for future engagements. Working groups are given the opportunity to stretch their creativity towards a successful peoples' council.

Major Challenges

The Naga City People's Council has been in full swing for almost 16 years but it was not always about triumphs. The People's Council faced lots of hindrances along the way. The major problems encountered and what the council did to address these are listed in the table below.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED	HOW IT WAS RESOLVED
1. Inactive/Uncooperative members/Limited membership	Organized Sectoral and Barangay People's Councils (BPC)
2. Hesitance of Local Government officials to engage with NCPC	"Orolay-olay" ("Usap-usap") was used by NCPC as strategy to bridge the distance between the NCPC members and the local government officials. These are informal events when food and drinks are served to celebrate companionship and encourage conversation on a personal level. The only rule is not to talk about work and political concerns.
3. Conflicts of schedule for NCPC members invited to Sanggunian hearings and consultations	Agreement that memos/ notices of meetings should be given to the secretariat at least 3 days before the meetings.
4. Incapacity of the NCPC representatives to participate at hearings and consultations due to lack of knowledge of rules and regulations	Orientation and capacity building through continuous training seminars.

The Naga City People's Council has gone through a series of ups and downs. Still, as of now, there is no other existing model which equals the extent of engagement of NCPC with the local government in all its complexities. There is still room for improvement though and NCPC will always look for better ways to promote people empowerment and social accountability.

Replicability/ Transferability

NCPC know that its success can be more meaningful inly if shared with groups or individuals interested to replicate the council. Some of the major requirements for replication are as follows:

1. Organizing and network building of various sectoral and multi-sectoral organizations.
2. Actual Engagement. Starting as a loosely structured NGO/PO mechanism forging trust and highly visible in engaging with the local government unit. It is significant to remember that a People's Council is not a fault-finding body. Instead, it removes the gap and builds harmonious NGO/PO and GO relationship. It is about sharing the burden and fruits of good governance.
3. An established set of strategic activities (capacity-building, advocacy, etc.). This set of activities, which include a major information dissemination and education campaign, will help the people become more aware and empowered about good governance. An information and education campaigns is important because it also allows the working groups to stretch their creativity, to mobilize their resources and to continuously ignite their passion and belief in effective good governance. Moreover, it will help enhance the skills and knowledge of the CSO leaders.
4. The Empowerment Ordinance. It paved the way for the NCPC's recognition and acknowledgment by the local government as its NGO/PO partner.
5. A clear organizational structure and a membership composed of competent, flexible, and active working groups. As a key component for the replication of the NCPC, this is needed because it provides the working groups a specific identity which they can call their own. This also gives the working groups the opportunity to realize that their role in the organization as integral, thus, motivating them to strive harder and better for good governance and improvement of their city.

ANNEX I | Key Groups/Persons Involved

This is the list of the Naga City People's Council's current officers/ members of the board, the secretariat and the different member sectors/organizations.

Board Officers and Members - as of 2012 -

Chairperson: Ramiro I. Samar
 Vice-Chair for Internal Affairs: Salve A. Cadag
 Vice-Chair for External Affairs: Christopher Molin
 Secretary: Nelia Sapalicio
 Treasurer: Gemma Pacis
 Auditor: Romulo Caceres
 Members
 Women Sector: Atty. Marie Hazel Lavitoria
 Senior Citizen Sector: Servillano Intia Jr.
 Peasant Sector: Salud Boragay
 Business Sector: Alberto Bercasio
 Transport Sector: Alberto Darilay, Raffy Doque and Noli Balmonte
 Education Sector: Delfin Bondad
 Civic, Professional and Enthusiasts Sector: Dr. Augusto Nieves

At present, the NCPC is composed of 14 sectors. Under each sector, the member organizations are listed.

Barangay People's Councils

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barangay People's Council -
Del Rosario
Ms. Floreña D. Mariano -President 2. Barangay People's Council - Abella
Mr. Salvador G. Gabo - President 3. Barangay People's Council - Balatas 4. Barangays People's Council -
Bagumbayan Sur 5. Barangay People's Council -
Bagumbayan Norte
Ms. Corazon Tutanés-President 6. Barangay People's Council - Dinaga
Mr. Stephen E. Dichoso-President 7. Barangay People's Council -
Carolina
Mr. Ernesto P. Aboga-President 8. Barangay People's Council - Mabolo
Ms. Adela Moran-President 9. Barangay People's Council -
Panicuason 10. Barangay People's Council -
Penafrancia
Mr. Antonio C. Katindig - President 11. Barangay People's Council - Lerma
Mr. Mark Alforte - President | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Barangay People's Council - Liboton
Ms. Virginia I. Nero 13. Barangay People's Council - Sabang
Mr. Arnel D. Fausto-President 14. Barangay People's Council -
San Felipe
Mr. Eduardo Gregorio 15. Barangay People's Council - Tinago
Ms. Nelia Sapalicio - Fed. President 16. Barangay People's Council -
Bagumbayan Norte 17. Barangay People's Council -
Cararayan
Mr. Roberto Bayos - President 18. Barangay people's Council -
Triangulo 19. Barangay People's Council -
Sta. Cruz 20. Barangay People's Council -
Con.Grande
Mr. Efren R. Alejandria - President 21. Barangay People's Council -
Igualdad
Ms. Melinda C. Gregorio - President 22. Barangay People's Council - Tabuco
Mr. Jenny Reyes - President |
|--|---|

Business

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and
Industry (MNCCI)
Mr. Phillip Imperial - President 2. Real Estate Brokers Association of the
Philippines, Inc (REBAP)
Ms. Emily Kalaw-President | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Seasonal Vendors Association (SVA)
Ms. Teresita Abarientos-President 4. Naga Market Stallholders Federation
(NAMASFED)
Mr. Claro, Alfonso-President |
|---|---|

- Cooperatives**
1. Bicol Alternative Credit & Savings Cooperative (BACASCO)
Mr. Benjamin Paculan III
 2. Camarines Sur National High School Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CSNHSMPC)
Ma. Cecilia B. Alcantara-Manager
 3. Integrated Farming Cooperative (IFC)
 4. Kamarines Knights Cooperative, Inc. (KKCI)
Mr. Jose Fuentebella, III
 5. Metro Naga Senior Citizens Cooperative (MENASEC)
Ms. Gloria Zantua
 6. Multi Agri-Forest & Community Development Cooperative (MAF - Coop)
Ms. Lucilla Nacario
 7. Naga Division of City Schools Credit Cooperative (NDCSCC)
Dr. Mercedes B. Adan
 8. Progresibong Samahan ng Magsasakang Pilipino (PROSAMAPI)
 9. San Isidro Development Cooperative (SIDEKO)
Mr. Romulo Caceres
 10. Sta. Rafaela Producers Cooperative (SRPC)
 11. JODALS Multi-Purpose Cooperative (JOMUPCO)
Mr. Clemente Besenio

- Labor**
1. Coca-Cola Worker's Union - Bicol Region (CCWU-BR)
Mr. Ramiro Samar-President
 2. Pepsi Cola Employees and Workers Union (PCEWU)
Mr. Dante Navales-President
 3. CASURECO Employees Labor Union (CASEMLU)
 4. Naga City Teacher Employees Association (NACITEA)
Ms. Nydia R. Sol

- NGOs**
1. Environmental Protection Int'l. Philippines (EPIP)
Ms. Maria Zerlaine Fornoles
 2. Building of Opportunities for Youth Success Inc. (BOYS, Inc.)
Ms. Farah Imperial
 3. Ateneo de Naga University Alumni Association (ADNUAA)
Dr. Sancho Tolentino
 4. Anduyog Metro Rescue, Inc. (AMRI)
Mr. Jose Vicente C. Villareal/Dr. Ramon Lim
 5. Camarines Sur NGO / PO Development Network, Inc. (CADENET)
Atty. Lilia Reyta-Tondo
 6. Caceres Social Action Foundation, Inc. (CASAFI)
Fr. Jeffrey John B. Briones

7. Center for Community Development, Ateneo de Naga University (CCD -ADENU)
Mr. Elmer Sto. Domingo
8. Community Extension Services - CSI (CES - USI)
Mr. Delfin Bondad
9. Community Organization of the Philippines Enterprise-Bicol (COPE)
Ms. Salve Cadag
10. Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP)
Ms. Asuzena Bien
11. Kolping Philippines, Inc. (KOLPING)
Mr. Sabas Mabolo
12. Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal - Bicol (SALIGAN - Bicol)
Atty. Marie Hazel Lavitoria
13. Sta. Rafaela Maria Service Center (SRMCS)
14. Women Information, Referral and Exchange (WIRE)
Ms. Eunice C. Alanis
15. Gawad Kalinga Development Foundation (GKDF)
Macario Boy Apin
16. St. Louise de Marillac Foundation (SLDMR)
Sis. Maura Flores
17. Associates in Research & Community Empowerment Services (ARCES, Inc.)
Ms. Cristina P. Lim-Executive Director

- Peasant**
1. Carolina Vegetable Grower (CVG)
Ms. Salud Boragay

- PWD**
1. Naga City Federation of Persons with Disabilities, Inc. (NCFPWD)
Mr. Christopher S. Molin-President

- Senior Citizens**
1. Naga City Senior Citizens Federation, Inc. (NCSCFI)
Mr. Eliseo Lachica

- Transport**
1. Jeepney Operators & Drivers Association of Loop Services A & B (JODALS A&B)
Mr. Alberto G. Darilay-President
 2. Naga City Carolina Operators & Drivers Association (NACODA)
Mr. Freddie Dumaguin-President
 3. Naga City Integrated Jeepney Transport, Inc. (NACIJTRA Inc.)
Mr. Pio Samonte-President
 4. Naga City Padyak Operators and Drivers Federation (NACIPODRIF)
Mr. Ser Villegas-President
 5. Naga Del Rosario Conception

- Panganiban Jeepney (DELCONPAJODA)
Mr. Juan G. Vale-President
6. Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper ng Tricycle at Operator sa Naga (PISTON) Mr. Raffy Duque-Manager
 7. San Felipe Operators & Drivers Association, Inc. (SANFEODA)
Mr. Jorge Miranda-President

Urban Poor

1. Azucena Homeowners Association (AHA)
Ms. Corazon Partos
2. Acacia Homeowners Association, Inc. (AHOAI)
Ms. Nelia Romero-President
3. Isla Neighborhood Association (INA)
Ms. Jenny Arenas
4. Naga City Urban Poor Federation, Inc. (NCUPFI)
Mr. Danilo Ludovice-President
5. San Rafael Homeowners Association (SRHA)
Mr. Benedict Ante
6. Tabuco Homeowners Association (THA)
7. Conception Grande Zone 5 Homeowners Association, Inc. (Zone 5 UPA)
Ms. Letty Punzalan
8. Naga Damayan Neighborhood Association, Inc. (NADANEA Inc.)
Mr. Edgar Dubas
9. Del Rosario Urban Poor Association, Inc. (DRUPAI)
Ms. Gemma Pacis/Ms. Haide Sempuego

Women

1. Girl Scout of the Philippines - Naga City Council (GSP - Naga City)
Ms. Lani Menia
2. Ladies in Green Foundation, Inc. (LGFI)
Ms. Amparo A. Nieves
3. Lakas Kababaihan
Mrs. Socorro Felix
4. Mabolo Mothers Organization (MMO)

Youth

1. 4H-Volunteer Leaders Association of the Philippines (4H-VLAP)
Ms. Marissa Gulapa
2. Enthusiastic Ateneans for Group Learning and Explorations (EAGLES)
Mr. Jerson Perez Miranda
3. Kabataang Liberal ng Pilipinas (KALIPI)
Ms. Glenda Dasco-President
4. The Achievers Generation (TAG)
Mr. Francis Barja

Education

1. Parent Teacher Association Teodora Moscoso Elem. Shool
Ms. Joy Panizal
2. Parent Teacher Association Mac Mariano Elem. School
Mr. Christopher H. Balane

CIVIC

1. Kabalikat Civicom Inc.,KB 645 Naga Central (KABALIKAT)
Mr. Ernesto T. Elcamel
2. Naga City Association of Retired Government Employees, Inc. (NCARGE)
Mr. Augusto R. Nieves, ED. D.
3. Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE)
Engr. Paulino S. Cunanan

ANNEX II | Pamangkutanon Sang Banwa Organizational Structure

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Rhilyn Mallorca- Cooperative | Arlene Joy Pet- Women |
| Gervacio Genturo Jr.- Academe/Transport | Emmanuel Areño- NGO |
| Elma Gardose- Academe | Jemaima Billones- Mayors Office |
| Emily Totica- Academe | Rezel Montilla- SB Representative |
| Elmer Pamocol- Farmers Sector | Matilde Solanib- Liga ng mga Brgy. |
| Lowell Leysa- Religious Sector | Mara Joy Castellanes- Youth |
| Joy Quimba- Business Sector | Romeo Quimba- Senior Citizen |
| Melisande Guarizo- Market Vendors | |

ANNEX III | Municipal Ordinance No. 4

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
MUNICIPALITY OF BINGAWAN
Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

Excerpts from the minutes of the regular session of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Bingawan, province of Iloilo, held at the session hall on October 4, 2004.

Present:

Hon. Rosalie C. Plaga	Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer
Hon Jose Rabago, Jr.	SB Member
Hon. Mark P. Palabrica	SB Member
Hon Edwin S. Faldas	SB Member
Hon. Leovy C, Simora	SB Member
Hon. Ronelo Q. Compas	SB Member
Hon. Delia C. Celeste	SB Member
Hon. Merlie C. Ocampo	SB Member
Hon. Hector P. Belloga	SB Member
Hon. Noel Pendioday	SB Member
Hon. Roshely P. Cerbo	SB Member/SK Federation Pres.

ON MOTION of Hon. Ronelo Compas and duly seconded.

Be enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan of the municipality of Bingawan, Province of Iloilo that:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ‘PAMANGKUTANON SANG BANWA’ IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BINGAWAN, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.

SECTION 1. Title. This ordinance shall be known as the Ordinance Establishing the ‘‘Pamangkutanon Sang Banwa’’ in the Municipality of Bingawan, Province of Iloilo and Providing Funds thereof.

SECTION 2. Compelling Acts. The Local Elective Officials (Mayor, Vice Mayor and SB members) concerned shall, as mandatory requirement for purposes of transparency, attend the Pamangkutanon sang Banwa; failure to attend such, the local official concerned shall put in writing his/her reason(s) for the failure to attend thereto, and his/her written report shall be distributed and posted in the Municipal and Barangay Halls. The transmission of the said report(s) should be borne by the absentee local official his/herself.

SECTION 3. Financing the Program. The program shall operate on a budget commensurate to the project. The amount shall be taken from any available fund for the purpose.

SECTION 4. Purpose. The ‘‘Pamangkutanon sang Banwa’’ shall:

1. Serve as the municipal assembly of residents;
2. Serve as a venue of the different sectors in the community to air their problems concerning the delivery of services in the countryside;
3. Serve as a venue for purposes of transparency in Local Governance; and
4. serve as a venue to assess the performance of elected officials.

SECTION 5. Administrative Provisions

A) The EXECOM. A ‘‘Pamangkutanon sang Banwa Executive Committee’’ to be known as ‘‘EXECOM,’’ is hereby created, which shall implement the provisions of this ordinance and the purposes of the ‘‘Pamangkutanon sang Banwa,’’ which shall be composed of the following:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Municipal Chief Executive | Chairperson |
| 2. Chairperson of the Committee on
Good Governance of the SB | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Representative from the Parish Pastoral
Council for Responsible Voting | Member/Convenor |
| 4. NGO/PO Representative | Member/Convenor |
| 5. Municipal Local Government
Operations Officer (DILG) | Member/Convenor |

B) Date and Venue. The “Pamangkutanon sang Banwa” shall be held every Second Monday of February and Second Monday of July each year and the years thereafter with the venue to be fixed by the EXECOM.

C) The Municipal Mayor shall issue such other rules and regulations in implementing this ordinance, particularly Sections 3 and 5 (Par A & B) above-cited.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This ordinance shall take effect after its approval.

APPROVED

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the veracity of the above-mentioned ordinance.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

(SGD) JULIO C. CASTIGADOR
Municipal Secretary

ATTESTED

(SGD) ROSALIE C. PLAGA
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

(SGD) TED PETER PLAGATA
Municipal Mayor

ANNEX IV | "Empowerment Ordinance" of Naga City

Republic of the Philippines
Tanggapan ng Sangguniang Panlungsod
City of Naga

ORDINANCE NO. 95-092
AN ORDINANCE INITIATING A SYSTEM FOR A PARTNERSHIP IN
LOCAL GOVERNANCE BETWEEN THE CITY GOVERNMENT
AND THE PEOPLE OF NAGA:-

Author: Joint & Collective

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Naga, that:

SECTION 1. - ALTERNATIVE TITLE. - This ordinance shall likewise be known as THE EMPOWERMENT ORDINANCE OF NAGA CITY.

SECTION 2. - DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. - The City Government of Naga, as a creation of the Sovereign People, shall at all times adhere to the following principles of governance:

- a. The will of the people shall always reign supreme. It shall be the prime responsibility of any government to ensure that such will is at all times manifested and enforced.
- b. The will of the people can best be determined if they organize themselves to address their sectoral or common concerns.
- c. Governance is best effected if its responsibilities are shared by the people. A system of partnership between the governor and the governed shall guarantee that sovereignty effectively resides in the people.

GO-NGO-PO PARTNERSHIP

SECTION 3. - DECLARATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH NGOS AND POS. - The City Government of Naga hereby declares itself open to a partnership with duly accredited Naga-based people's organizations and non-government organizations in the conception, implementation and evaluation of all government activities and functions.

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) - any aggrupation of individuals, not subsidized by government funds or organized for religious purposes or partisan politics, and whose primary ends are advocacy of issues or the realizations of specific developmental objectives for the community or a sector thereof.
- b. People's Organization (POs) - any cooperative, labor union, business group, or any aggrupation of at least twenty-five (25) individuals belonging to the same sector or sharing a common interest, not subsidized by government funds or organized for religious purposes or partisan politics, and whose primary concern is the advocacy of sectoral issues; and/or the realization of specific developmental objectives for their sector or the promotion of their common interest; provided, that organizations of government employees shall not qualify as people's organizations under this ordinance.

The record, more than what is stated in the articles of incorporation, constitution or bylaws of the NGO and PO, shall determine whether the aggrupation is primarily organized for religious purposes or partisan politics.

SECTION 4. - ACCREDITATION OF NGOS AND POS. - Any Naga-based nongovernment organization or people's organization in active operation for at least one (1) year may be registered and accredited by the Sangguniang Panlungsod upon submission of and/or compliance with the following requirements:

- a. Proof of existence and operation in Naga City for at least one (1) year prior to the application for accreditation;
- b. Proof of activities held in pursuit of developmental objectives or of organizational activities conducted;
- c. Program of activities planned for the year following the date of application for accreditation;
- d. Copies of its constitution, by-laws and/or articles of incorporation;
- e. Lists of its officers and members of good standing;
- f. Financial statement and declaration of assets and liabilities; and
- g. Board resolution manifesting a decision to seek accreditation and participation under this Ordinance.

Coalitions, alliances and federations of NGOs and POs shall not be entitled to a separate accreditation if at least 50 percent of its members are already accredited as individual NGOs and POs.

An NGO or PO whose application for accreditation has been approved shall be issued a certificate of accreditation containing, among others, the terms and conditions for the maintenance of its accredited status.

The Sangguniang Panlungsod, however, may from time to time, and in consultation with the People's Council, impose such other requirements and condition for accreditation as it may deem appropriate to best adhere to the principles behind this Ordinance.

Any NGO or PO already accredited by the City Government prior to the effectivity hereof need not apply again for accreditation for purposes of this Ordinance, unless its accreditation has in the meantime been withdrawn.

SECTION 5. - WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION. - The Sangguniang Panlungsod may, in consultation with the People's Council and after hearing, withdraw any accreditation granted to any non-government organization or people's organization for violation of any provision of this Ordinance or for failure to comply with any of the conditions for accreditation.

SECTION 6. - SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION. - The Sangguniang Panlungsod shall create a special committee from among its members for purposes of processing applications for accreditation, monitoring compliance with the conditions for accreditation, recommending withdrawals thereof, and initiating necessary and desirable legislative measures for the effective performance of its tasks.

The People's Council, once formally organized, shall be entitled to a two-seat representation in the Committee.

SECTION 7. - RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF ACCREDITED NGOS AND POS. - Accredited NGOs and POs may enter into joint ventures and other cooperative undertakings with the city government to engage in the delivery of certain basic services, capability-building and livelihood projects, and to develop local enterprises designed to improve productivity and income, diversify agriculture, spur rural industrialization, promote ecological balance, and enhance the economic and social well-being of the people within the framework of equitable and sustainable development.

The City Government may provide assistance, financial or otherwise, to accredited NGOs and POs for economic, socially-oriented, environmental, or cultural projects to be implemented within the territorial jurisdiction of the city.

PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

SECTION 8. - CREATION. - All accredited NGOs and POs may organize themselves into a People's Council which shall upon petition made to the Sangguniang Panlungsod, be recognized as their representative, and through which their rights, privileges and responsibilities under this Ordinance may be exercised.

For this purpose, the Sanggunian Special Committee on Accreditation shall, not later than ninety (90) days from the effectivity hereof, call for a convention of all accredited NGOs and POs to facilitate the formal organization of the People's Council.

SECTION 9. - STRUCTURES AND INTERNAL RULES. - The People's Council shall determine its own organizational structures and internal rules, but shall at all times provide for adequate consultation mechanisms for purposes of obtaining the views and suggestions of all political parties or movements, government employees' organizations, other non-accredited but legitimate NGOs and POs, and accredited NGOs and POs which are not members of the Council; Provided, that no such political Party, government employees' organization or nonaccredited NGO and PO may be nominated by the Council for membership in the city's special bodies nor may they be granted the rights and privileges of accredited NGOs and POs under this Ordinance; and, Provided further, that no provision herein shall be interpreted to prohibit the Council from changing its name or from being organized other than for purposes of this Ordinance.

SECTION 10. - RECOGNITION. - There shall only be one (1) People's Council which shall be recognized by the Sangguniang Panlungsod within thirty (30) days from the filing of the petition for recognition. If only one petition is filed and the Sanggunian fails to deny the same within the said period, the petition shall be deemed automatically granted.

Should more than one petition be filed, the Sanggunian shall, within the same period of thirty (30) days, exert its best efforts to allow the petitioner to form a single Council. Failing in which the Sanggunian shall, within fifteen (15) days, resolve the petitions based on all of the following:

- a. The petitioner with the most number of member organizations;
- b. The petitioner with the most number of individual members;
- c. The petitioner which is representative of the most number of sectors, interests or concerns;
- d. The petitioner with the most credible track record of inter-organization activities and cooperative undertakings between and among its members; and
- e. The petitioner which is most capable of exercising the powers and responsibilities of the People's Council.

Recognition once granted, shall not be withdrawn except upon an action of a petitioner and upon showing that the People's Council no longer possesses most of the foregoing qualifications or has allowed itself or any of its members to engage primarily in, or to be used primarily for, religious purposes and/or partisan political activities.

The Sangguniang Panlungsod shall not entertain and exercise jurisdiction over internal and/or inter-organizational conflicts within the People's Council.

SECTION 11. - POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. - Upon recognition, the People's Council may, in accordance only with its policies and internal rules, elect or appoint from among its member organizations only its representatives to all city government bodies, boards, councils, committees, task forces special government bodies and other similar work groups which the city government or the national laws may hereinafter create.

Member organizations elected or appointed to represent the People's Council shall have the sole prerogative to choose from among their bona fide members the persons that shall seat in the boards, councils, committees, task forces and/or special bodies concerned.

Unless otherwise provided herein, such representatives shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the membership of the board, council, committee, task force or special body.

Participation of the People's Council or any of its member organization in the conception implementation and evaluation of government activities and functions shall be without any compensation or remuneration. The City Government, however, shall provide for the necessary office spaces, facilities and/or equipment for said participation of the Council.

Representatives of the People's Council may observe, vote and participate in the deliberation, conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of projects, activities and programs of the City Government, propose legislations and participate and vote at the committee level of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, and/or act as the people's representatives in the exercise of their constitutional rights to information on matters of public concern and of access to official records and documents.

SECTION 12. - NON-PARTISAN NATURE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL. -The People's Council shall not engage in, or allow itself or its member organizations to be used for purposes of, partisan politics and shall adopt such measures to ensure that it is adequately shielded from any political partisanship or influence.

For purposes of this Ordinance, partisan politics shall refer to any activity statement or manifestation which solely or primarily serves to campaign for or against any particular political party or any candidate for any elective public office.

SECTION 13. - AMENDMENT OF COMPOSITION OF CITY GOVERNMENT BODIES. - The existing compositions of the City Government's committees, boards, councils, task forces, special bodies are hereby amended and modified to accommodate the membership and participation therein of the People's Council or its representatives as herein mandated.

SECTION 14. - TRANSITORY PROVISION. - The power and responsibilities of the People's Council as provided under Section 11 hereof shall not be exercised unless and until the People's Council has been recognized and has manifested by resolution to the Sangguniang Panlungsod that it is ready to exercise and to perform such powers and responsibilities.

Pending such resolution by the People's Council, it may, after recognition, send representatives only to such boards, councils, committees, task forces or special bodies as it may deem appropriate. However, such representatives may not vote nor their attendance counted for purposes of determining a quorum, unless their appointment to represent the Council is made known to the Sangguniang Panlungsod within thirty (30) days after the Council's recognition.

SECTORAL REPRESENTATION

SECTION 15. - SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD. - There shall be one (1) representative in the Sangguniang Panlungsod from each of the non-agricultural labor, women and urban poor sectors of the city who shall be elected from among the members of the accredited NGOs and POs in each sector.

The term of office of the elected sectoral representatives shall be co-terminus with the term of office of the regular members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod. They shall not be entitled to any salary or emolument, except such reasonable allowances as may be granted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod to defray necessary expenses for attending and/or participating in official functions, the session of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, its committee hearings, and other activities in aid of legislation.

Except as herein provided, the sectoral representatives shall enjoy the same rights and privileges, and exercise the same powers and responsibilities, as the regular members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

SECTION 16. - ELECTION OF SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES. - The guidelines for, and the conduct of, the election for sectoral representatives shall be issued and supervised by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the Department of Interior and Local Government in coordination with the City Government which shall advance the necessary expenses therefor. No government official or employee shall directly or indirectly intervene or influence the conduct or result of the election.

Unless otherwise disqualified, no person belonging to a particular sector shall be denied his right to vote by reason of his not being a member of any accredited NGO or PO. For purposes of the election, a person shall be entitled to be registered as a voter or allowed to be voted upon in only one (1) sector.

Existing election laws shall apply in a supplementary manner to the sectoral election herein mandated.

SECTION 17. - EFFECTIVITY. - The foregoing provisions on election for sectoral representatives shall take effect only, and the representatives elected therein shall only hold office, until the relevant provisions on sectoral representation of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, are actually implemented on a national scale.

RIGHT TO SELF-ORGANIZATION

SECTION 18. - RIGHT TO SELF-ORGANIZATION. - It shall be the joint responsibility of the City Government and the People's Council to organize the Nagueños into cooperatives, labor unions, interest groups, non-government organizations, sectoral organizations and/or people's organizations, or to encourage and support their own

efforts towards self-organization to address their common concerns, to promote their common welfare, and/or to serve the city or their communities and interests.

SECTION 19. - FUNDING. - An annual appropriation of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P300,000.00) shall be appropriated for the next three (3) years for purposes of community organizing, establishment of cooperatives, people's and nongovernment organizations, interest groups, labor unions and other activities which promote and advance the people's right to self-organization.

No part of the public funds, however, shall be used to support any activity which is intended for religious purposes or as a form of partisan politics. In no case shall funds be used other than for organizing purposes as defined by the People's Council and approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

The People's Council and the City Government shall form a joint committee to prepare a three-year program for the budget herein appropriated and the guidelines for the disbursement of funds for approval by the Sangguniang Panlungsod and subject to existing accounting rules and regulations. Once approved, such program and guidelines shall not be modified except upon the concurrence of the People's Council.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 20. - PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CONSULTATIONS, REFERENDA AND PLEBISCITES. - It shall be the principal obligation of the City Government to conduct regular public, barangay and sectoral hearings and consultations on all matters affecting the general welfare, and/or submit all controversial issues and legislations to the people in a referendum or plebiscite specially called for the purpose, upon two-thirds vote of the Sangguniang Panlungsod and subject to the provisions of existing laws.

SECTION 21. - INFORMATION BOARDS AND SUGGESTION BOXES. - Information boards and suggestion boxes shall be provided, maintained and controlled by the City Government in each barangay, at the public plazas, city hall compound, public markets, schools, government offices, and at such public places accessible to the people, which boards and boxes shall be other than those maintained by the barangays and the national government, and shall be controlled solely by the City Government.

Copies of the contents of the suggestion boxes shall be timely furnished the Office of the City Mayor, the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod and the People's Council.

SECTION 22. - EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. - The City Government shall maintain a daily radio and/or regular television information program on city policies, programs, projects and activities in at least one credible and popular radio station and one television channel to adequately inform the people on issues and matters affecting their rights and welfare.

The City Library shall develop and implement a public information, cultural and general education program for the people through films, video and other visual aids.

The City Government and the People's Council shall jointly create and provide for the composition of a City Council for Bicol History, Culture and Arts. Such Council shall be institutionalized by an ordinance and an annual appropriation, and shall be separate and independent of any other body for the promotion of the national culture and arts.

SECTION 23. - SECTORAL DESKS. - The City Government shall maintain sectoral desks or offices for labor, women, urban poor, students, peasants and agricultural workers, senior citizens, differently-abled persons, and disadvantaged minors to serve as centers for cooperation, coordination and joint actions with the People's Council on matters affecting the interest of said sectors.

SECTION 24. - REPEALING CLAUSE. - All resolutions, ordinances and executive issuances, or provisions thereof, which are inconsistent with any of the provisions hereof are hereby accordingly repealed, amended and/or modified.

SECTION 25. - SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - Should any provision of this ordinance be subsequently declared unconstitutional or ultra vires, the rest of the provisions not so declared shall remain to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 26. - EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval and publication in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in Naga City.

ENACTED: December 20, 1995.

LOURDES V. ASENCE, M.D.
City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

J. ANTONIO A. AMPARADO
City Secretary

APPROVED:

JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor

NOVEMBER 2013



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ABOUT CODE^{NGO}

The Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) was established in 1990 by the 10 largest NGO networks in the Philippines. Focusing on being one of the trusted national voice of civil society and in advancing the capacities of CSOs to exercise transformative leadership, CODE-NGO with its 6 national networks and 6 regional networks representing more than 1,600 development NGOs, POs and cooperatives nationwide remains as the country's biggest coalition of NGOs working for social development. CODE-NGO's priority advocacies are transparency, anti-corruption and government accountability; people's participation in governance; asset reform; environment; social services; CSO good governance; Official Development Aid reform; and Federalism/ constitution reform.

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