





**FOREWORD** 



Benigno Aquino, Jr.

### FOREWORD

It was in the difficult last years of the Marcos regime, when the unpopular administration had begun to unravel and the oppositionists to the regime found a need to unite that one shining light for freedom and democracy rose to the occasion.

The moving spirit behind the anti-Marcos forces was the irrepressible and charismatic former Senator Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino, Jr. The opposition had gravitated to the fast-talking larger than life Tarlakeno who had refused to kowtow to the administration, although such would have been the easier path to take.

Incarcerated for imagined crimes, facing a death sentence handed down by a military court – despite his being a civilant – and with a worsening heart condition, Aquino had been allowed" to leave for the U.S. after Marcos had faced growing pressure from the international community.

If he wanted to return to the Philippines, all that had been asked of Aquino was to accept the legitimacy of the Marcos administration, and to apologize for his "crimes." He was also told to never speak out against the Marcos family and government while he was in the U.S. In exchange, his life would have been spared and his family would no longer face constant harassment from the government.

He refused. Instead, Aquino chose the sad life of an expatriate even as he continued to be demonized by the regime.

After seven years and seven months in the U.S., Aquino packed his bags and booked a flight home. This despite threats from Marcos emissaries that he would not live if he decided to pursue his plan.

Said Aquino: "If it's my fate to die by an assassin's bullet, so be it. But I cannot be petrified by inaction, or fear of assassination, and therefore stay in the side..."

If there is one fateful day that all Filipinos will always be aware of, it is August 21, 1983. It was on this day that Aquino finally landed on Philippine soil. Thousands trooped to the Manila International Airport to greet the returning hero.

They would not only be disappointed, but angered but what happened on that day. Aquino was, as he had foreseen, assassinated at the airport tarmac. A single gunshot wound to the head was all it took to end the life of the man on whom the people had pinned their hopes to lead the fight against the Marcos dictatorship, which had been lifted only on paper, but which for all intents was still in effect.

In what should have been his first formal statement upon landing, Aquino prepared these words: "I have returned to join the ranks of those struggling to restore our rights and freedom." Instead, he was silenced forever.

In death, Aquino became an even more beloved figure.

His long shadow galvanized the Filipino people to act as they had never acted before. Mass rallies were attended by tens of thousands. His widow Corazon 'Cory' Aquino assumed the mantle of leadership that had been his. Hesitant at first, she was finally convinced to challenge Marcos in an unscheduled "snap" election.

Among the organizations that prepared for Aquino's home-coming was a political aggrupation born out of the merger of two anti-Marcos parties, the Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino (created by oppositionists from Mindanao) and Laban (which had been a brainchild of Aquino and his closest associates).

PDP-Laban was the political party that propelled Cory Aquino to the presidency three years after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino.

In the decades that followed, the party would have its share of ups and downs. Today, the party has been revitalized, thanks to the efforts of two men who had stayed loyal to Aquino in the martyr's darkest hours. Now retired former Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. and former Makati City mayor and now Vice President Jejomar Binay, kept the flame alive after Aquino was shot.

With the party approaching its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, PDP-Laban launches this book to serve as a reminder that the ideals that Ninoy Aquino stood for will never die.

A. Pinhar

Senator Aquilino L. Pimentel III
President - PDP-Laban

Jose de Venecia III

In de Venia B

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EDITOR Beting Laygo Dolor

SUB-EDITORS Ella Rose de los Santos, Jade Ceres D. Munoz

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Cleo Miel Serevilla

GRAPIC ARTIST Every Sy

PHOTOGRAPHY Teddy Pelaez, Willie Avila

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**JEJOMAR BINAY** 

### HUMANRGE'S 1/YHR XECON TOPNOICH. TRANSFORMER





### **BINAY THE BATANGUENO**

Binay makes no excuses about who he is and where he comes from. He is no well-heeled mestizo, but IS rather closer to the Common Man. Hailing from the province of Batangas, he was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. But his rise to the top was well earned. After finishing law and passing the bar, he could have easily taken the easy path of corporate law.

Instead, he opted to fight for the little man, for the oppressed Filipinos, for Juan de la Cruz. As a young lawyer, he was among the few who dared face the might of a martial law regime bent on quashing the rights of those who disagreed with the dictator Marcos. Binay's reputation grew with every case that he handled and argued before the courts.

This fighting spirit would later earn him the nickname "Rambotito." He may be short in stature, but he most certainly casts a long shadow, either as a lawyer or as an

administrator. As mayor of Makati City, he was aware that he would preside over two worlds. One was the modern business district with his cement and glass towers and executives in suits or barongs. The other was the vast residential area where poverty was overwhelming, and crime was a way of life.

It was these depressed areas that the new mayor would change for the better.

The Ayala family can take credit for developing Ayala Avenue, as well as Legaspi and Salcedo villages, plus the exclusive villages surrounding the district such as Forbes Park, Dasmarinas Village, Bel Air and Urdaneta. But it was Mayor Binay who changed the rest of Makati.

As chief executive, Binay delivered the goods like no other

city or town executive. He very literally took care of its residents from cradle to grave, and everywhere in between.

He began by giving the city's residents the best health care possible. Previously, the Makati Medical Center had been the exclusive enclave for the rich. Few could afford the high cost of medical care provided by "Makati Med."

Binay changed all that. He began by leasing an entire floor of the hospital, which valid Makati residents could then go to whenever they were in need of medical care. The city paid for everything. All they had to do was to show a yellow card to prove that they were from Makati.

Later, Binay would have a separate medical facility built for his people, a stone's throw from Makati Med.

Universal health care was just one of the essential services he would provide city residents.

Binay then turned his attention to the education of Makati's youth. While the rest of the Philippines would only provide free education at the primary level, the Makati mayor went not one but two steps further. First, he built a high school that provided free high quality education. Again, the only thing students needed to enrol was proof that they were bona fide residents of Makati City.

Perhaps one of Binay's greatest achievements was the creation of the University of Makati, just off the Guadalupe bridge.

### AT PAR WITH THE BEST

The university is impressive. It can easily be mistaken for a top college or university like La Salle or Ateneo. Best of all, students only have to pay a nominal fee of about P1,000 per semester and everything is else is free.

The university's well-earned reputation for providing quality education has caused non-residents to enrol there. This they can do, with a small catch. They have to pay a little bit more because the institution of higher learning was originally intended exclusively for the youth of Makati.

The sprawling campus and its modern buildings would



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RIGHTS LAWYER.



put some of the schools in Manila's "university belt" to shame. There is even a brightly lit, full-sized football field for night games.

The only thing missing is membership in the NCAA or UAAP. This, too, is not impossible or improbable.

It is no exaggeration to say that the youth love Binay as much as Binay loves the youth. He was, in fact, the titular head of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines for the longest time.

This does not mean that his focus is solely on the youth. Binay surprised many of his fellow mayors when he came up with the novel idea of providing birthday cakes to all senior citizens celebrating their birthdays. They also get to watch as many free movies as they want, not at the small non-descript theatres but at the biggest and best movie houses in Greenbelt and Glorietta.

Binay's free movies for seniors has been such a hit that other mayors have adopted the scheme.

After serving three consecutive terms, Binay moved to the executive department as head of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

This, too, was a difficult job considering that he had to work with the 13 mayors of the cities and towns that comprised Metro Manila. But the mayors appreciated the fact that Binay was one of them. He knew the problems of the day-to-day administration of a city or town.

At the helm of the MMDA, Binay introduced his "can do" style of management. No problem was so large that it could not be solved. Not even the horrendous traffic of the growing metropolis.

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His term as MMDA chief is remembered as one where he was able to win the cooperation of the mayors with little difficulty.

But the call of the city of Makati would again beckon. Residents had willingly embraced his wife Dr. Elenita Binay as mayor when Binay was with the MMDA. The wife gave way to the husband when reelection time came, and Jejomar Binay again found himself the elected chief executive of the city he had served so well.

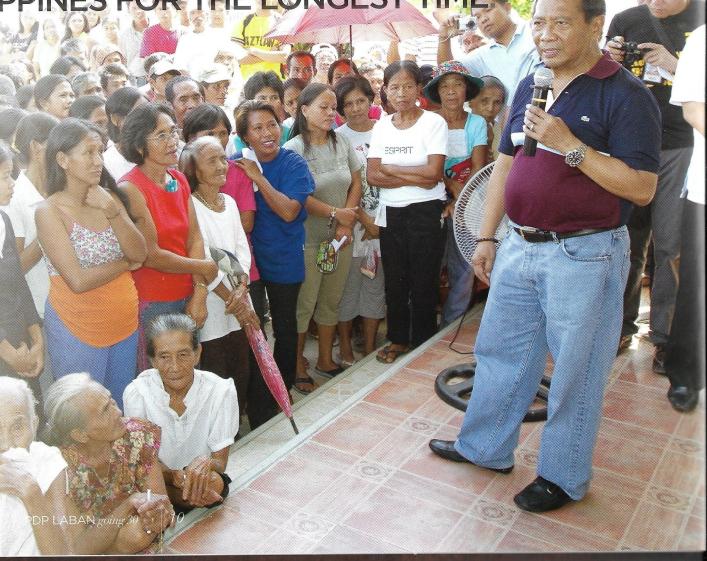
With his return, it was more of the same. Binay continued to introduce new programs and to beautify the city. Once dark and dingy areas were turned into mini parks. More streets were paved. The fire department was modernized.

In his next three terms as mayor, Makati residents had become fully aware that their city had become a model that the rest of the Philippines looked up to. Once poverty-stricken areas were upgraded to middle class, since employment opportunities continued to grow under the Binay administration.

Even the horrible traffic at the business district was solved to some extent.

Most city planners say that Metro Manila in general and Makati City in particular has a traffic problem that is all but unsolvable. There are simply too many vehicles in too few roads.

Binay's solution was to enforce traffic rules to the hilt, through his traffic enforcers dressed in brown and yellow. The





enforcers handle the woeful traffic situation with a firm hand, allowing no room for shortcuts. Discipline is the order of the day in the city, especially during the morning and early evening rush hour.

They also know better than to accept bribes. This is one area that they know Mayor Binay would never tolerate. The worst thing that could happen is for an enforcer to ask for a bribe and for that motorist to inform the mayor. Such acts guarantee that he becomes an ex-traffic enforcer in no time.

Since Binay has always been bent on turning Makati into a world-class city, he was also very particular about cleanliness.

A tale is told of how one foreigner once carelessly threw a cigarette butt on the street in full view of Mayor Binay. That foreigner received a tongue lashing that he will never forget. In comparison to the other cities comprising Metro Manila, Makati is easily the cleanest. All thanks to Jejomar Binay's dislike for unclean environments.

### LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

When finally Binay was at the end of his final term as mayor, city residents insisted that a Binay continue delivering the goods for them. So it was that young Junjun Binay, a councillor who had earned the same reputation as his dad for being a man of action, was easily elected mayor last year.

The elder Binay, however, still had more to give. Not just teh residents of his beloved Makati City, but the entire Filipino nation.

As the May 2010 elections approached, there was a clamor from Makati residents for Binay to run for president. Posters and streamers sprung everywhere saying, "Be our president, Mayor Binay." Their logic was simple, if Jojo Binay could do for the Philippines what he had done for Makati City, then the country would very quickly move out of Third World status and become a developed nation.

Such logic was unassailable. But political reality set in. Binay simply did not have the logistics to run for president. He did, however, have the trust of another "man of the masses," the ever







AS THE MAY **2010 ELECTIONS** APPROACHED, THERE WAS A **CLAMOR FROM MAKATI RESIDENTS** FOR BINAY TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT.

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popular Joseph Estrada, attempting a comeback as president after his first term had been aborted.

Erap Estrada convinced Jojo Binay to be his running mate, and the outgoing Makati mayor agreed.

In the months prior to the elections, Binay was not only a far second place to the then front-running Mar Roxas, he was actually in third place, behind popular Senator Loren Legarda. Being a full 20 points behind Roxas, few gave Binay any chance of winning.

### THEY DID NOT KNOW BINAY.

Mounting what is now considered one of the most effective national campaigns in recent history, Binay first overtook Legarda and then slowly but steadily erased the lead of Roxas. By the time election day came, the Roxas camp was in shock while the Binay camp were content knowing that they had won fair and square, against the toughest of odds.

### **TIES THAT BIND**

Vice President Binay may not have been a party mate of President Noynoy Aquino, but the ties that bind him to the Aquino family cannot be ignored. The country's second President Aquino had no qualms about asking Binay to be part of his Cabinet.

The first year of his six year term as VP about to be completed, there is little doubt about what the future holds for Jejomar Binay.

History says that the incumbent Vice President is always the favourite to run – and win – as President in the next elections, especially if that VP does a good job.

Is there any doubt that Vice President Jejomar Binay will do a great job? For the human rights lawyer and first class city executive, 2016 beckons.

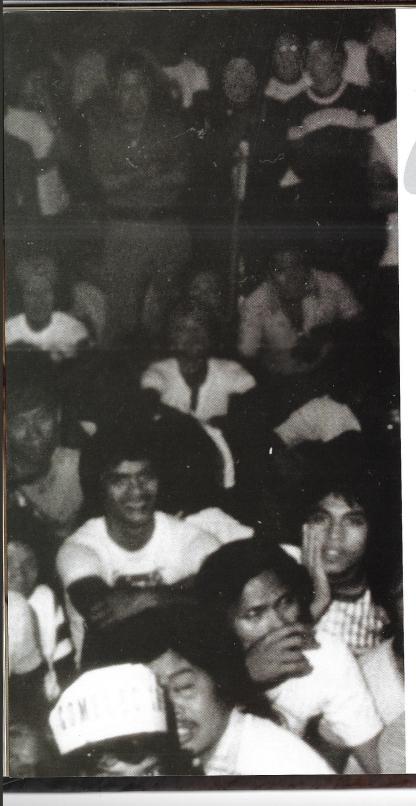
This early, his partymates at the PDP-Laban feel another victory in the air.





## BIOLO BIOLO

THE SENIOR STATESMAN ALSO WANTS TO IMPROVE HIS LANDMARK LAW BY GUARANTEEING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN TRANSACTIONS, AS WELL AS AN IMPROVEMENT IN ELECTORAL PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE BEST CANDIDATES BEING ELECTED FOR EVERY POST.



After completing the maximum of two consecutive terms on top of the first term he had as senator when the elective Senate was revived in the aftermath of the People Power Revolution in 1986, Aquilino 'Nene' Pimentel is no longer planning on staying active in politics, but this does not mean that he is ready to be put out to pasture.

"Nobody retires from work," he says. Or should retire. The gravelly voice and the famous eye bags -- hallmarks of the feisty Nene Pimentel -- are still very much in evidence as he talks about life after the Senate.

The heart and soul of PDP-Laban keeps busy these days with the University of Makati's Pimentel Center for Good Governance. "This is where I try to help our local government units, starting from the barangay all the way up to the provincial level in the hope of enhancing their skills as public officials, and, of stiffening their resolve to ward off corruption in all its forms in their areas of responsibility" he says.

LGUS have long been his concern. One of his proudest achievements is his being the principal author of the Local Governments Code, the law which granted LGUs more authority and autonomy from the previously overly centralized government bureaucracy.

A full two decades after his pet bill was passed into law, Pimentel says that there are still defects that need to be addressed.

### **NOT PERFECT**

FAR FROM IT.

"No law made by man is ever perfect," he says, "And no law implemented by man is ever done fully well."

Still, the man who was one of the moving forces behind the creation of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino in his home turf of Mindanao remains proud of the law because it compelled the national government to share funds – and power - with the LGUs.

Under Pimentel's law, 40% of the Bureau of Internal Revenue taxes collected nationwide is shared with the LGUs by the national government which retains the remaining 60%. Those funds accompanied by the devolution of certain powers to the LGUs resulted in their faster development.

But he says that some LGUs have become overly reliant on their share to the point that they have forgotten that they have power to raise their own revenues at the local level.

Pimentel says he understands the hesitance of LGUs to impose taxes on their residents because "people hate taxes."

He adds, however, that "when people see where their taxes go... they would be more than willing to share the burden of governance with their elected officials."

### ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY

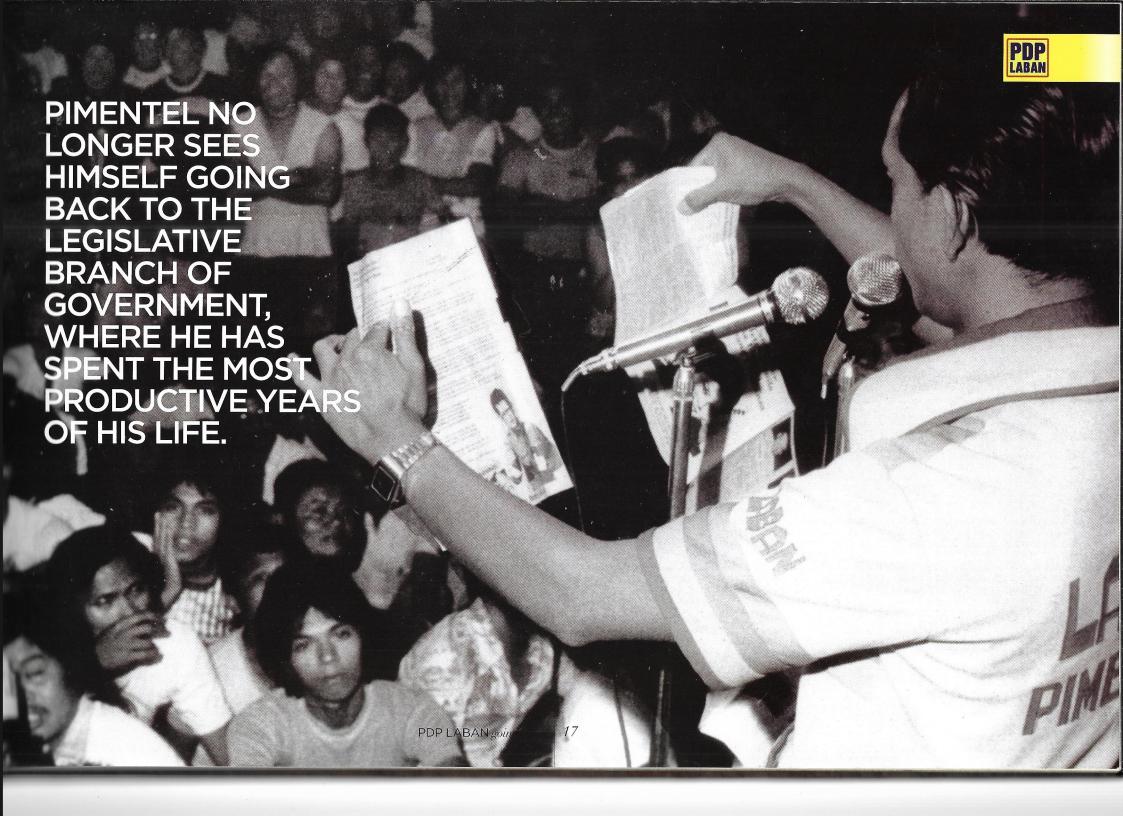
The senior statesman also wants to improve his landmark law by guaranteeing greater accountability and transparency in transactions, as well as an improvement in electoral procedures which would qualify the best candidates for every post.

Unfortunately, he points out, there is the small matter of the Philippine Constitution. The only qualification to run for public office, according to the basic charter, is the ability to read and write.

"Sometimes some people do not even know how to read what they write," he says. Surely a small sample of the sharp wit that has made Pimentel one of the most quotable of the country's elected officials.

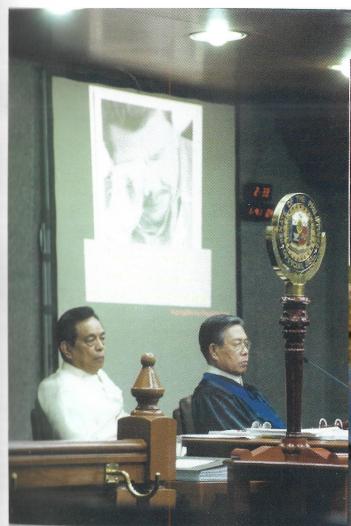
Still, Pimentel is not one to mince words. One can see when he is genuinely angry or merely peeved at his fellow public officials, senators included. In the case of three former fellow senators, Nene Pimentel came out with guns blazing.

The poll protest of his son Koko is the case that irks him no end. By all accounts, Atty. Koko Pimentel should have













## HIS DREAM OF TRANSFORMING THE PHILIPPINES INTO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS NOT HAPPENED YET, BUT HE INSISTS THAT THIS IS AN

**EVENTUALITY.** 

joined his father in the Senate back in 2007. This did not happen due to some mumbo jumbo that occurred during the elections held in some parts of Mindanao (see related story).

He takes particular aim at three senators who he says have connived to keep Koko Pimentel out of the Senate -- Ed Angara, Loren Legarda and Lito Lapid. The trio are "colleagues of Migs Zubiri in the Senate," he says. Having formed a bloc in the upper chamber of Congress, the four have adopted a one-for-all and all-for-one stance.

Being part of the Senate Electoral Tribunal, the three have become the defenders of Zubiri in the body, which the senior Pimentel finds particularly bothersome.

Overwhelming evidence had been presented before the SET showing massive cheating that favored Zubiri -- and Angara -- in the province of Maguindanao.

The electoral manipulation of the votes in Maguindanao and in some other provinces edged out Koko from the winning column of the candidates for the Senate in the 2007 elections. That was particularly painful for the older Pimentel given that he has devoted so much of his public life fighting to give Mindanaonons a better deal from the national government.

Four years after filing his protest, Koko was finally proclaimed as the winner Zubiri and took his seat in the Senate in 2011.

Now, besides the Local Government Code, Nene Pimentel is also known as the champion of federalism, whether in the Senate or in any public fora.

His dream of transforming the Philippines into the Federal

Republic of the Philippines has not happened yet, but he insists that this is an eventuality.

### IT WILL HAPPEN

He says he has planted the seed of federalism on the ground, and while he may not be around long enough "to enjoy the shade" of the seed once it becomes a tree, a federal Philippines "will happen."

Federalism is the only "feasible, legal and peaceful solution" to the problem of Muslim Filipinos or Moros, who for decades, if not centuries, have seen their just aspirations ignored by the central government.

Otherwise, he adds, seccession may be the only way out. Federalism is a recognized international solution to problems of seccession, he insists. It is hard to argue with his contention. Federalism will result in the speeding up of the development of the nation, he says. And it will also dissipate the causes of Moro unrest.

He would like to see the proposed federal states engage in friendly competition whereby the prize would be a marked improvement in the quality of life of those that move ahead. Also, the competition will be a factor in ending any kind of insurgency, particularly the four decades' old communist insurgency that seems endless unless their reasons for engaging in a war with the government are somehow addressed.

Pimentel no longer sees himself going back to the legislative branch of government, where he has spent the most productive years of his life. The time has come for the next generation of leaders to take over. He will not run for senator even if there is no law preventing his return to the upper chamber in the next elections.

He jokes that since he now has difficulty in walking, why should he even think of running? "I'm done," he says with finality.

He is still open to helping out LGUs in whatever capacity, Pimentel says. He promises to answer "any call for help." But only on non-partisan matters, he adds.





When lawyer Aquilino 'Koko' Pimentel III

The resident of PDP-Laban last

The knew that he was heading a party in flux.

With his father former Senator Nene Pimentel heading for retirement, and with party chairman Jejomar Binay a busy President of the Philippines— and not just a spare tire to unbent President Noynoy Aquino— the party president has tough task of reinvigorating a political party that has had than its share of ups and downs.

He wants to see the PDP-Laban become a "real" political party one that transcends personalities. It must be one that will be alive and well long after his or Binay's political life has ended. Pimentel wants to attract more young members to he fold, if only because young people are more conscious of

ideology, he says.

Political parties should be representative of firm policies, according to Pimentel. These should not change at the whims of personalities elected into office. Flip-flopping policies is something that he would like to see eradicated.

He also wants the youth to see that the leadership of the party is relatively young.

"Joey (de Venecia) and I have infused young blood into the party," he says. Pimentel refers to party Secretary-General Jose Joey" de Venecia III, like himself a youngish 40-something. Both men are brimming with fresh ideas on how to find a place for PDP-Laban in today's political reality.

### **CHANGE NOW**

Like today's young Filipinos, "we are dynamic thinkers, we are impatient, we want to see change happen in our lifetime," he says

Like all political parties, Pimentel wants to see PDP-Laban have as many active, card-carrying members as possible. Unlike some political parties, however, he does not want members who are unaware of the principles by which the party stands.

"They must believe in the party ideology," he says

"I want a party based on principles and ideology, not based on personality" which is so often the case with Philippine political parties, he adds.

The PDP-Laban today is a little different from the party tha was formed from the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino and the Lakas ng Bayan almost 30 years ago. From a slightly left of center party, its ideology has shifted to the center.

In its almost three decades of existence, Pimentel is award that some one million members of PDP-Laban have come and gone.

The fair weather members will be a thing of the past, if Pimentel has his way. Instead, he wants to see a strong membership of men and women committed to the ideals of the party, founded almost three decades ago at the height of the political struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

In the meantime, he has a lot of catching up to do.

Pimentel was cheated out of a Senate seat in the 2007 elections and it took all of four years before he could finally take his oath of office. This came after Migs Zubiri resigned, rather than face the humiliation of being unseated. For Pimentel, the two years left in what should have been a six-year term are best spent crafting laws, more than anything.

Pimentel had placed 12th in the final count of the Commission on Elections, but for a failure of elections in some parts of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, notably Maguindanao, where a separate election was held.

Massive cheating occured and Pimentel suddenly found himself out of the "Magic 12." The then Arroyo administration pulled all stops to guarantee that one of their own would take the last spot. Statistically improbable results were reported and Pimentel was eased out of the winner's circle

It is worth noting that the 2007 polls came at the heels of the hotly-contested 2004 presidential elections of "Hello, Garci" fame. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo won over favored opposition bet Fernando Poe Jr., a favorite of Muslim Filipinos.

Ironically, FPJ lost by one million votes, with votes from ARMM taking a large percentage of the total, or about the same number that GMA had cryptically asked Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to "guarantee" would be her winning margin.

### WASTED YEARS

According to Carpio, Pimentel already led over Zubiri by over 257,000 votes. "What is the point in wasting three years with Zubiri in office?"

Pimentel attributes his loss to the "Maguindanao votes." Given how that province and almost all of ARMM was under the iron-fisted control of the Ampatuan family, which had close ties to the Arroyo presidency, the results surprised no one. Of course, just how dangerously corrupt the Ampatuans were would be proven by the Maguindanao Massacre, where

## "WE ARE DYNAMIC THINKERS, WE ARE IMPATIENT, WE WANT TO SEE CHANGE HAPPEN IN OUR LIFETIME."

The massive cheating that occured in ARMM in 2004 would be repeated in 2007. And just as FPJ was cheated of the presidency in 2004, Koko Pimentel was deprived of his rightful seat in the Philippine Senate in 2007.

He had no recourse but to file an election protest, but had to wait for Zubiri's resignation given the slow pace of the Senate Electoral Tribunal hearing the case.

In his favor, SET chairman Justice Antonio Carpio had shown that the lead of Pimentel over Miguel Zubiri had reached the point that to continue counting would be an exercise in futility. Prior to Zubiri's resignation, the latest recount showed that Pimentel had already established what was considered an insurmountable lead over his opponent.

innocent civilians were slaughtered for the simple "crime" of daring to contest their political stranglehold on thier turf.

Pimentel's followers knew it was only "a matter of time" before he took his Senate seat. When this finally happened, the young Pimentel had been widely expected to take the same path as his father, who served the maximum three terms and has since retired.

Had he taken his seat in 2007, lawyer Pimentel says he would have crafted laws "to address the weaknesses in our justice system."

He also would have focused on the Philippine tax system because, he says, "Filipinos are among the most heavily taxed people in the world."







Like his father Nene, Koko Pimentel is a vocal supporter of the need to shift to a federal form of government. Being a Mindanaoan, the Pimentels believe that federalism is the best solution to the uneven distribution of both wealth and political power.

"Federalism is in the PDP-Laban constitution as one of our basic objectives," Pimentel points out.

Nene Pimentel has sponsored a number of bills which would call for a shift to federalism, whether through charter change with delegates elected at large, or through the Congress acting as constituent assembly.

While that shift has not yet taken place, Pimentel said he would like to see local government units given greater autonomy. This is not surprising. For the record, his father is known as the Father of the Local Government Code.

While waiting to assume his Senate seat, Pimentel was kept busy trying to continue the revitalization of the party which began in the May 2010 elections with the election of former Makati Mayor Binay to the vice presidency. Binay was one of the founders of Laban, which permanently merged with the PDP some 28 years ago.

Pimentel was part of the core group that handled the Binay campaign. Starting out a full 20 points behind then leading candidate Mar Roxas, Pimentel recalls that they adapted a "systematic scientific approach" against the Liberal Party standard bearer.

Pimentel happily notes that Binay defeated not one but two former Senate topnotchers in Roxas as well as Loren Legarda.

### SOLID PLAN

The core group prepared its plans and never deviated from these, "even when the numbers were discouraging" at the start of the campaign period, he says.

They did take note of one clear fact. 'The numbers were changing" in Binay's favor.

"We always believed that if our plan is correct, in the end we will be successful," he adds. And successful they were. With the victory of Binay, the PDP-Laban has elected the second highest official in the land. Not since the victory of Cory Aquino against Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 has the party had such a high-ranking elected official.

It is interesting to note that Cory Aquino assumed the presidency after another case of massive cheating. The rubber stamp Congress controlled by Marcos had declared the dictator the winner of the "snap elections" of Feb. 1986, which was rejected by the Filipino people, who then forced Marcos from office via the People Power Revolution of 1986.

Today, it is Binay who is the center of attention. Although 2016 is still far off, there is little question in the minds of the PDP-Laban members that the incumbent vice president will be going for all the marbles. The Philippine presidency will be the last, great goal of the former human rights lawyer who transformed Makati City into what is arguably the most progressive city in the Philippines.

Says Pimentel: "If I told you that when he was a young boy, Jejomar Binay dreamed of becoming vice president, would you believe me?"

### **BINAY IN 2016**

Certainly, no one does. And Binay will almost certainly run for president in 2016 under a party headed by Koko Pimentel. "We will not deny or hide that fact," he says.

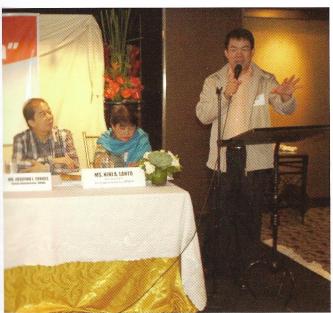
In the meantime, there is the 2013 mid-term elections to plan for. Pimentel is certain to run again for the Senate. Between now and that time, he would like to see the party

JUST AS FPJ WAS CHEATED OF THE PRESIDENCY IN 2004, KOKO PIMENTEL WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS RIGHTFUL SEAT IN THE PHILIPPINE SENATE IN 2007 PDP LABAN going 30









# THE PHILIPPINE PRESIDENCY WILL BE THE LAST, GREAT GOAL OF THE FORMER HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER WHO TRANSFORMED MAKATI CITY INTO WHAT IS ARGUABLY THE MOST PROGRESSIVE CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

establish a solid presence in each province, "hopefully in each municipality."

The PDP-Laban may not have the funding of the bigger political parties, but it has something that few others have — a true political ideology. Under Koko Pimentel, therefore, the party that bounced back in May of 2010 appears headed for even greater peaks in the coming years.



JOEY HAD GOTTEN CLOSE TO PDP-LABAN CHAIRMAN

JOEY DE VENECIA'S

CAMPAIGNED **TOGETHER** 



DESPITE

HIS POLITICAL PEDIGREE, **JOEY MIGHT NEVER HAVE ENTERED THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE WORLD** OF PHILIPPINE POLITICS HAD FATE NOT INTERVENED.

FOR THE MAY, 2010 ELECTIONS. BINAY RAN FOR VICE PRESIDENT JEJOMAR BINAY SINCE THEY WHILE THE YOUNG DE VENECIA

> RAN FOR SENATOR.



AT PDP-LABAN, THE SON OF JDV HAS SEEMINGLY **FOUND HIS** 

PLACE. THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGY FITS HIM LIKE A GLOVE, HE SAYS.



His name is known to almost all Filipinos, but that's because he is the namesake of his more well known father. Jose 'Joey' de Venecia III is the son of the one and only JDV, as Jose de Venecia Jr. is known, the longest-serving Speaker of the House of Representatives. JDV served five terms, a record that may never be broken.

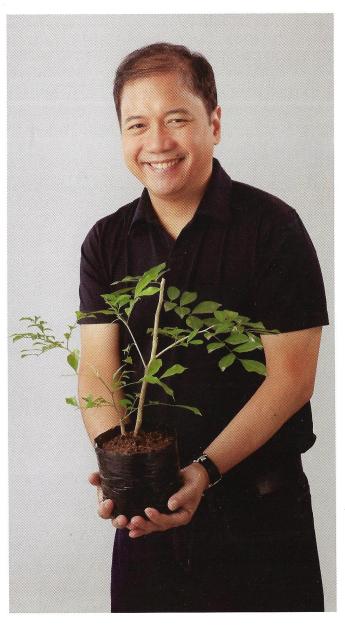
Last year, after testing the political waters by running and almost winning as senator in his first try, Joey joined PDP-Laban as Secretary General upon the invitation of no less than the party's chief, Jejomar Binay.

His bid for a senate seat was his first foray into politics. He had been invited to join the senatorial line-up of the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, headed by former President Joseph Estrada. As fate would have it, Estrada picked as his running mate former Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, whose party had joined forces with PMP for the 2010 polls.

Joey had known PDP-Laban chairman Binay for some time, but only as passing acquaintances. The two men became close because of a tragedy. The house of Speaker de Venecia had caught fire in December of 2004 and daughter KC became a casualty. Then Mayor Binay and his son, Makati City Councilor Jun-Jun Binay had gone to the scene of the fire to help the de Venecia family.







Mayor Binay, Councilor Binay, and Joey rode on the same ambulance carrying KC and it was under these most trying of circumstances that the mayor and the businessman bonded.

They later campaigned together for the May, 2010 elections. Binay ran for vice president while the young De Venecia ran for senator.

"He became one of my political mentors," Joey says of the former Makati City mayor turned vice president, the others being his father and the man known as Erap.

Binay is what's known as "a natural," one who enjoys the campaign hustlings and meeting with all sorts of people at all hours of the day. And night.

### LITTLE INTEREST IN POLITICS

By comparison, Joey admits to being almost the opposite of Binay in so many ways. For one, he had never had any interest in holding political office, and had never bothered to follow in his father's footsteps.

In fact, JDV and Joey are a study in contrasts. The former is the compleat Filipino politician, friendly and generous to a fault, ready to engage in long talks with total strangers about local and national politics, and in his element whenever there is a campaign to organize and an election to win.

Joey, on the other hand, knew he belonged in the world of business and finance as far back as his high school days, although his maternal grandfather Eugenio Perez was also an accomplished politician having been the last Speaker of the House during the Commonwealth era and the first Speaker of the House of the Republic of the Philippines.

There was only one time that Joey took an active part in a national political campaign. This was when JDV ran for president in 1998. JDV lost to the popular Joseph Estrada, a self-professed man of the masses.

Unlike other political combatants, however, JDV and Erap



remained friendly to each other. During their campaign, the two had avoided the mud-slinging that is common in Philippine politics, especially when the prize is so high. JDV accepted his defeat and Erap became president. Somewhere along the way, Erap had gotten to know Joey little by little, and he obviously liked what he saw.

In staging what was one of the most stunning political comebacks in local politics, Erap again ran for president in 2010, after what he said was his "aborted" presidency. Having served only half of the term he won in '98, Erap wanted the chance to complete the job which he says remains unfinished.

He might have won, too, had it not been for the sudden rise in the fortunes of one Senator Benigno Aquino III. Yes, the only son of the late Ninoy and Cory Aquino -- he a founding member of one-half of the two parties that merged into PDP- Laban, she who became president with the full support of the same party -- Noynoy Aquino became president following a groundswell of support after the death of his mother.

Had Noynoy Aquino chosen not to run, there is the very strong probability that Erap Estrada might have won another term as president. But this is one of history's "what ifs" that will never be answered.

### JOIN US, JOEY

In running for president, Erap and his running mate Jojo Binay formed a senate line-up that included Joey de Venecia III.

"It was a difficult decision," Joey admits because he was not sure he had the financial wherewithal to fund a national campaign; Joey would also face strong opposition from an administration bent on destroying him. Other parties had sounded him out but Joey decided to join the Erap slate because he saw that the former president was genuinely loved by the masses, whom he loved in return.

In retrospect, there is some indication that electronic "dagdag-bawas" might have played a role in Joey's loss. All









surveys taken by Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations had shown him to be within the Magic 12. In the early hours of the counting, Joey had even held on to the 11th spot. But something happened along the way.

In one area where he had relatives, volunteers and supporters, Joey received zero votes. Joey opted not to contest the strange and improbable occurrence, preferring instead to look to the future.

The political bug had bitten the eldest son of JDV. "It is not just my father who became Speaker," Joey recalls. "My

"It is not just my father who became Speaker," Joey recalls. "Maternal grandfather was also the first Speaker of the House of Representatives after the Philippines gained its independence."

Sooner or later, Joey realized, he would be pulled into Philippine politics, and that time came in late 2009, when Erap Estrada and Jojo Binay asked him to join the senate slate they were forming for the May 2010 elections.

### **PEDIGREE**

Despite his political pedigree, Joey might never have entered the rough and tumble world of Philippine politics had fate not intervened. He was, by his own admission, more than content being a global businessman as well as civic leader. Under the latter, he became chairman of the Virlanie Foundation, that aids the country's street children. He also set up Computer sa Bawat Pamilya, or Click, which advocates having every Filipino family to own a computer. As a young chairman and CEO of Broadband Philippines, he was cited in the publication *"Who's Who in the World in Telecommunications"* because of his role in introducing broadband technology to this part of the world.

As a champion of the environment, he helped his father in setting up the Billion Trees Movement, perhaps the most positive step anyone can take to save the country's endangered ecological system.

Specializing in telecommunications and information technology, Joey is deemed a pioneer of the Philippine call center Industry after he put up one of the first true call











centers in the country called Qinteraction in 1997. As of 2011, that industry employes more than 400,000 Filipinos and contributes about \$6 billion to the Philippine economy.

As a young CEO, his pioneering efforts in introducing broadband technology to the Philippines were funded by no less than the Bank of America as well as the well known global investor George Soros. It is hard to imagine where the Philippines would be today were it not for Joey's efforts.

In the Philippine power sector, Joey participated in the initiative to privatize TRANSCO, the government national electricity grid. Together with Goldman Sachs China, he was able to convince the State Grid of China to participate in this privatization effort. As a result, the Philippine energy sector received its biggest ever investment valued at \$4 billion.

Joey continues to manage investments not only in the Philippines, but in Asia and even in Africa.

It was his desire to put up a national broadband network (NBN) that somehow pushed Joey into local politics. But that's getting ahead of the story.

First, he had to face death threats and vicious attacks on his person. All because he dared speak out about how powerful figures in the Arroyo administration had sought to corner the NBN contract that Joey had proposed and was willing to fund using his own and his investors' funds.

The scandal where Joey de Venecia III became known as whistleblower is known as the ZTE-NBN deal.

### **BIGGEST SCANDAL**

That deal is still considered the biggest scandal that plagued the Arroyo administration. Joey accused then First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of ordering him to "back off" the deal, even as then Commission on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos was working to make sure that a Chinese company would win the contract.

### THE PROBLEM?

The ZTE-NBN deal was not only inferior to what Joey and his associates had offered, it would also have been shouldered by the Filipino taxpayer. In exposing the scam which forced President Arroyo to cancel it, Joey saved the country some P16 billion in payments to ZTE.

With hundreds of millions of pesos in kickbacks involved, it was no wonder that Joey received death threats for daring to blow the whistle on the dirty deal.

In those dark days, Joey was at least able to find a friend and ally in then Makati City Mayor Binay. As a resident of Makati, Joey asked and received from Binay not only moral support, but added protection.

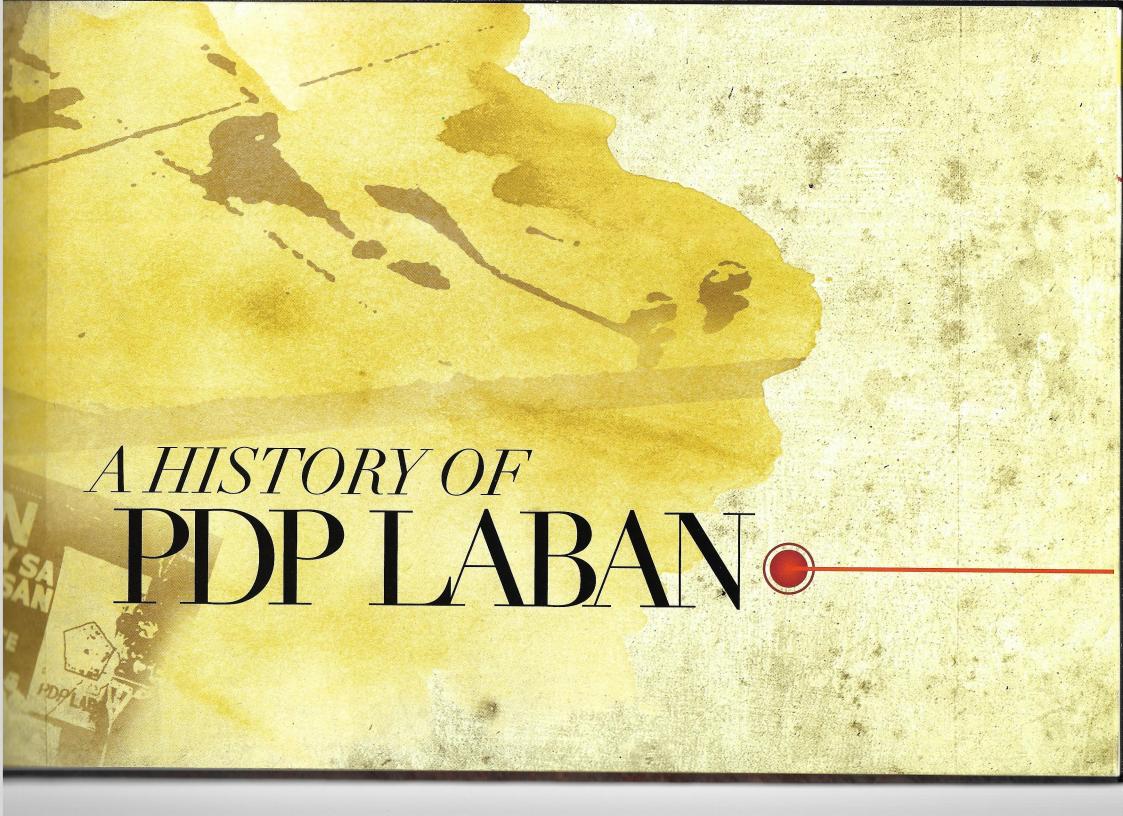
"I owe a lot to Jejomar Binay," Joey de Venecia III says, while acknowledging that he was also under the protective wings of Erap and the moral support of former President Cory Aquino, who inspired him to fight on.

At PDP-Laban, the son of JDV has seemingly found his place. It was with the approval and blessings of Estrada that he left the PMP and joined the PDP-Laban. The party's ideology fits him like a glove, he says. As Sec-Gen, Joey is brimming with ideas on how to make the party even more relevant to today's youth. And he is convinced that its centist policies are ideal for the Filipino people and the country.

"There are many challenges in administering a resurgent party," he admits, "but I am ready to face these challenges." For a man who used to eat death threats for breakfast, helping move a major political organization to greater heights should not prove too difficult.







1972

1978

1982



When Martial Law was declared on September 21,1972, only one political party, the KBL (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), ruled.



President Ferdinand E. Marcos called for Batasang Pambansa Election. He allowed the formation of political parties, but up to regional level only.





February 6, 1982
1st National Convention was held at Club Filipino in Cebu City.

PDP was inaugurated as a national political party, with Atty. Luis "Buti"Jose (deceased) from the Luzon Council as its working chairman. All the 13 regions were duly represented.



From left: Atty. Jose, Atty. Boy Tabios and Sammy Occeña.



# 1983





### FIRST HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF PDP

Former Senator Lorenzo Tañada, a LABAN stalwart, who was convinced of the noble and patriotic qualities of PDP was highly emotional (with tears in his eyes) when he accepted the honorary chairmanship of PDP.



Because of one common advocacy it was on this occasion that the PDP and LABAN (Lakas ng Bayan) formalized their merger. Thus, the name PDP LABAN evolved.



From left: Nene Pimentel and Bal Satur



### February 5-6, 1983

2nd National Convention was held at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City. A leit motif of peace: Party Stalwarts - Father Demetrio, Pimentel, Alejandro Roces, Antonio Cuenco, and Teofisto Guingona - sing with party choir at convention.



### February 6, 1983

PDP LABAN members rally for the drafting of petitions protesting non-payment of workers wages, ejection of slum dwellers and military abuses.

# 1983









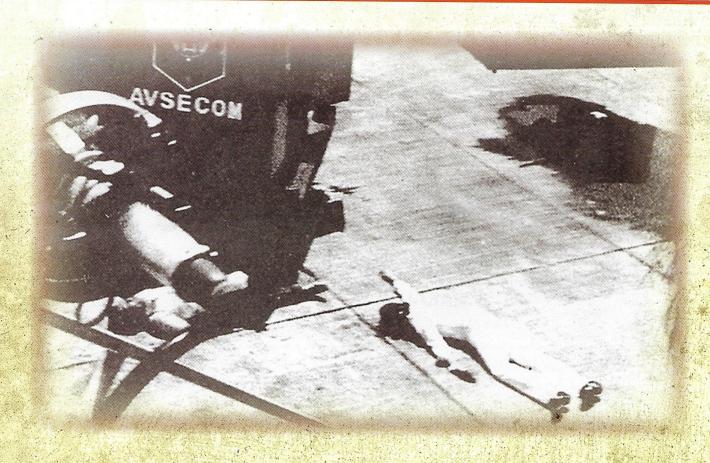
Year 1983 was fruitful and meaningful for PDP LABAN because it was during this year when the party expanded very rapidly all over the country. Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao formed their respective Education Committee Councils. These committees engaged in a massive educational training of the grassroots to enlighten them on prevailing political realities.



August 21, 1983 PDP LABAN members were part of Ninoy Aquino's welcoming party.

NINOY'S DEATH IGNITED A SERIES
OF MASS ACTIONS PARTICIPATED IN
BY PDP LABAN AGAINST MARCOS
TYRANNY ALL OVER THE NATION.





Minutes after his arrival, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. lay lifeless on the cold tarmac of the Manila International Airport.

1983





August 31, 1983
PDP-LABAN & ATOM (August 21 Movement) led the millions of people that accompanied the coffin of Ninoy to Manila Memorial Park.









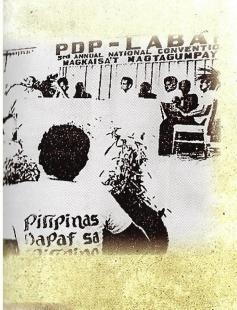






# 1985





### 3rd National Convention was held at Ateneo de Manila in Quezon City.

It was during that time when the party was split on the question whether to participate or boycott the 1984 Batasang Pambansa election.

The convention with its keynote speaker Cory Aquino:

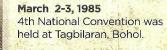
flexing its muscles and seizing the moment.

PDP LABAN Committee on caucus; to leave the options open to either boycott or to participate but leaning towards the latter.

1984 was also the turn of Mindanao Area to hold the party chairmanship under the rotation basis. Nene Pimentel emerged as the unanimous choice for the post of working chairman.



TAKING A BREAK: (From left) John Osmena, Teofisto Guingona, Bing Pimentel Eva Kalaw, Nene Pimentel, Ramon Mitra, and Saidamen Pagrungan.







Rene Saguisag, the keynote speaker, and Eva Estrada Kálaw graced the occasion.

Mindanao Area was Chairman for the second time with Nene Pimentel chosen again as its working chairman.

# 1986



### February 22-25, 1986 EDSA PEOPLE POWER REVOLUTION

Responding to the call for People Power, PDP LABAN officers and members were among the first ones who went to EDSA to protect Enrile and Ramos who had defected from the Marcos government.

1986 Proclamation Rally PDP LABAN participated in the proclamation rally of Ex-Pres. Corazon G. Aquino at Quirino Grandstand, Manila.

















# 1988



Following the EDSA Revolution, the Batasang Pambansa was abolished. Holdover local government officials all over the country were replaced by appointed OIC's. With Nene Pimentel as Minister of Local Government and Peping Cojuangco as PDP President, almost all appointed OIC's from provincial, municipal and barangay levels were attracted to join PDP LABAN with the notion of acquiring security of tenure of office, without regard to party ideology,



### October 1988

To save the party, PDP-LABAN formed a National Coordinating Council to plan the next convention.

### December 3 - 4, 1988

A Planning Conference was instead held in Parañaque and elected the new PDP-LABAN officers:
Nene Pimentel as *Chairman*Janet Ferrer as *President*Jojo Binay as *Executive Vice President*Bobbit Sanchez as *Sec. General* 



1989

1990









The position of Vice Chairman was created and Senator Ting Paterno was overwhelmingly elected to the post. Then President Corazon Aquino graced the occasion as keynote speaker. Several Cabinet Secretaries and senators led the convention workshops as resource speakers.



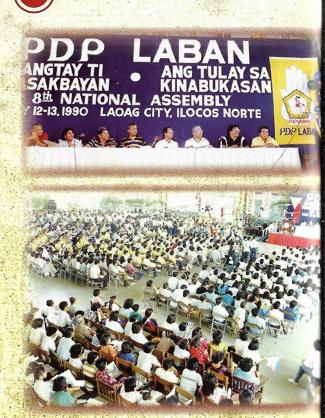








May 6, 1989
PDP LABAN held a National Council
Meeting at the Architectural Center Club, Inc.

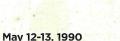




# 1992

# 1995





8th National Convention was held at Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

One of the highlights of the convention was the launching of "Nene Pimentel for President Movement" for the 1992 election, which was strongly endorsed by the delegates.



October 5, 1991
PDP LABAN Regional
Consultation Meeting.

Kalibo Aklan.

Cebu City hosted the Region VII Consultation Meeting with the participation of the Cebu Provincial Council at Sacred Heart for Boy Gymnasium. PDP LABAN forged a tactical alliance with the Liberal Party. A jampacked joint convention followed at the Araneta Coliseum. The Alliance fielded a complete national slate led by the Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senator Nene Pimentel as Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates respectively. The Alliance, however, was not successful due to financial and internal problems that beset both parties.



PDP LABAN entered into a tactical alliance with Lakas - Laban Coalition Nene Pimentel, as guest candidate, lost in the senatorial race due to the infamous OPERATION DAGDAG-BAWAS.





# 1996

# 1997



February 2, 1996

PDP LABAN held a National Leaders Assembly at the Hotel Nikko, Manila Garden.



November 9 - 10, 1996
PDP LABAN WORKSHOP
Held at National Headquarters,
Boy Scout of the Philippines.



January 17,18 & 19, 1997
PDP LABAN held a MindanaoArea Trainors Training with a
theme: "Political Education:
and Training", held at St. Paul
Seminar House, Bonbon,
Cagayan de Oro City.

### March 8, 1997

The 9th PDP LABAN National Congress was held at the Philippine Racing Club. (PRC) Makati City.

A new set of officers were elected.

Nene Pimentel as National Chairman
Jojo Binay as National President
Erasmo Damasing as Vice President
Doy del Castillo Bulaong as Sec. General
Efren Cruz as National Treasurer
Alexander Lerona as National Auditor







National Strategic & Operational Planning Conference April 26-27, 1997



### September 21, 1997

PDP LABAN participated on the "NO TO CHARTER CH movement."

The PDP LABAN Makati Chapter headed by Jojo Binay. Nestor Mercado and Buddy Pangilinan marched at the grandstand to provide support.



2000

2002

2007



### December 15, 2000

PDP LABAN Makati Chapter held a Convention and Mass Induction of officers and members at the West Rembo Amphitheater, Makati City.





### February 28, 2002

PDP LABAN 19TH ANNIVERSARY & HOMECOMING

Held at Makati Park & Garden, West Rembo Makati City. Sen. Nene Pimentel and Mayor Jojo Binay giving some inspirational message to the delegates.





### **OCTOBER 7, 2007**

PDP LABAN National Consultation Held at Philippine Racing Club Makati City National President Mayor Binay welcomes the delegates from different regions.









If 1983 was a historic year for the Filipino people, it was equally historic for the PDP-Laban.

Ferdinand Marcos was still the president of the Philippines, but his strongman rule was showing signs of crumbling. Anger and discontent was growing and would come to a head with the assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. at the Manila International Airport tarmac upon his return from exile on August 21 of that year.

The PDP-Laban was the result of the merger between the Mindanao-based Partido ng Demokratiko Pilipino and the Metro Manila Luzon-based Lakas ng Bayan, both of which were essentially anti-Marcos, anti-martial rule, pro-democracy parties.

For PDP-Laban, it was the year when the party expanded very rapidly all over the country. Throughout Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, Education Committee councils were being formed.

Party members were part of the welcoming committee for Ninoy Aquino's expected triumphant return to the Philippines, after the co-founder of the Lakas ng Bayan (AKA Laban, which had merged with the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino to form PDP-Laban) had spent three years of exile in the US.

The airport and the rest of Metro Manila was bedecked with yellow ribbons to welcome the opposition leader. The mood was generally festive as hopes were high that Ninoy would be able to somehow convince Marcos to abandon his tight hold on the presidency, perhaps even call for free elections.

This was not to be.

Ninoy Aquino would not set foot on Philippine soil alive. He had been picked up by a team formed by the Aviation Security Command from the China Airlines flight as it landed. As he was being escorted down the ramp, he was shot and killed.

### UNLIKELY TALE

The Marcos controlled media tried to sell the public the unlikely story that a communist hitman named Rolando Galman had assassinated the PDP-Laban leader.

The death of Ninoy Aquino was the spark that would enrage a people, so used to the totalitarian regime that fed them lies that all was well in the Philippines. The disillusioned people had grown tired with the lies, but their hopes for a return to a true democracy had seemingly been dashed by the assassination. The most commonly held belief was that Ninoy was the only man who could unite the people against Marcos.

The PDP-Laban flexed its political muscle in the aftermath of the Ninoy assassination. Such stalwarts as Nene Pimentel, Lorenzo Tanada, Teofisto Guingona, Ramon Mitra, Eva Estrada Kalaw and John Osmena formed a united front against the dictatorship. The party would lead the calls for the resignation of Marcos, which went largely ignored. Still, the hope remained that somehow a way could be found to oust the dictator, short of a civil war.

The solution was to draft the widow of Ninoy, the quiet "simple housewife" named Cory C. Aquino, to lead the fight.

Rallies, marches and other forms of mass action were the most useful tool against Marcos. And while he would afford to ignore the mass movement, he could not afford to turn his back on the international community.

Marcos was all but forced to call for a "snap election" to prove that he was still the legitimate head of the country. The polls were set for early February of 1986.

Marcos chose as his running mate the respected former Senator Arturo Tolentino. His party, the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, was the only national political party still in existence after the pre-martial law political parties were effectively disbanded.

True, there were remnants of the old Liberal Party and the Nacionalista Party still active politically. But it was a time for



a fresh, new party to take the cudgels for the Filipino people. PDP-Laban was to be that party.

She was the most hesitant candidate imaginable, but Cory Aquino was prevailed upon by the PDP-Laban elders to lead the fight. She did so with some uncertainty, but the call of the people had become too loud to ignore.

As her running mate, she chose Salvador Doy' Laurel, a former senator whom Ninoy had known since their childhood days.

### L IS FOR LABAN

So it was that the mighty KBL faced the ragtag group of opposition parties led by the PDP-Laban. The KBL had everything going for it. Money, power, and the equity of the incumbent. The PDP-Laban, on the other hand, had very little going for it in terms of logistics. But it did have the solid support of the Filipino people and the grassroots organization of the party would prove equal to the task. The "L" symbol —for laban or the Filipino word for fight — had become ubiquitous. Even kids would flash the sign to show who they were supporting.

What happened on election day was to be expected. The KBL availed of any and all forms of cheating, coercion and threats against the opposition.

The Commission on Elections, whose commissioners were all handpicked by Marcos, also gave no quarter to the PDP-Laban,

When votes were counted in Congress, contested results were disregarded. As a result, Marcos was declared winner. But the results were unacceptable to the people. As election results were being fallied, a handful of brave inspectors walked out, refusing to take part in what they saw was a clear ploy to doctor the results to show a Marcos-victory over Aquino.

PDP-Laban-led street protests came back with a vengeance. International observers had declared that there was a failure of elections to numerous parts of the country. In these spots, Marcos was almost always the winner. But an exit poll taken by

an international media organization had determined that Cory Aquino was the true winner.

On the ground, human rights lawyers such as Jejomar Binay and Rene Saguisag were extremely active, informing the people of how the Marcos regime had stolen the elections from them.

What happened next is in the history books. The Edsa1 People Power Revolution led by former close associates of Marcos but backstopped by the political opposition led by PDP-Laban massed at Edsa for three days demanding that Marcos resign. As his grip on power weakened, Marcos was left with no recourse but to leave the Philippines. He would head for Hawaii where he would live the remainder of his life.

Cory Aquino became president of the Philippines, while her brother Peping Cojuangco would assume the presidency of PDP-Laban. The party's constitution and by-laws were amended.

There were difficulties with the Cojuanco era as he insisted on merging PDP-Laban with his own smaller party known as Lakas ng Bansa. Meanwhile, such PDP-Laban stalwarts as Jaime Ferrer and Saguisag found their way to the Cory—Cabinet, while Binay was appointed OIC-mayor of Makati.

Cojuango's stint with PDP-Laban was shortlived. The party rejected his calls for a merger with Lakas ng Bansa.

Still, PDP-Laban was alive and well as a political party. Saguisag had been elected to the Senate along with another new party member, businessman Ting Paterno, even as founding member Nene Pimentel continued to keep the fire which brought forth the new party alive.

There was even a brief marriage between PDP-Laban and the Liberal Party when the latter's senior statesman Jovito Salonga decided to run for president when Cory Aquino's term ended in 1992. Salonga chose as his running mate none other then Nene Pimentel.

### CHEATED OUT OF A SENATE SEAT

Nene Pimentel, meanwhile, had his own problems. After his

quixotic bid for the vice presidency ended in defeat, he would run for senator and feel the sting of what has come to be known as "dagdag-bawas" -- a method of cheating that Comelec insiders had refined to an art.

It can be said that in the ensuing years after the heady early days of the Cory Aquino presidency, the two persons who remained true to PDP-Laban were Jejomar Binay and Nene Pimentel.

The pair never left the party, although they were on occasion drafted by other opposition umbrella organizations. Binay, for example, was part of the United Opposition in the 2004 presidential elections, when PDP-Laban did not field a presidential or vice presidential candidate.

In the May 2010 polls, Binay — who had by then become party president — ran as the vice presidential running mate of former President Joseph Estrada, who has his own political party, the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino.

It may be likewise said that the May 2010 elections saw the resurgence of the PDP-Laban after Binay won the vice presidency, making him the second highest official in the land.

Today, Vice President Binay is the chairman of the PDP-Laban, while his partner Nene Pimentel has gone into semi-retirment, at least from active politics. Coming in as party president is Atty. Koko Pimentel, son and namesake of the three-term senator and co-founder of the original PDP.

completing the new leadership is Jose Joey' de Venecia III, son and namesake of the five-term Speaker of the House.

If the status of the PDP-Laban needs to be defined, it is this: the party is alive and well and looking forward to better rears ahead.

After helping dismantle a dictatorship, the PDP-Laban remains committed to making the Republic of the Philippines a thriving democracy.



**JOE SILVOSA** 

# AN OLD WARRIOR COMES FULL CIRCLE

Don't tell Panabo City Mayor Jose Joe Silvosa that he is a returnee to the PDP-Laban. In his mind, he never really left.

Like many elected politicians, Mayor Silvosa found himself being wooed by the party in power. Incumbents are perceived to be more electable, and he is no different. Now serving his third term as mayor of the city within Davao Oriental province, Silvosa was formerly with Lakas-Kampi but has since regained his post as card-carrying member of PDP-Laban.

But the Lakas-Kampi was formerly Lakas-CMD, which was formerly the Lakas-NUCD, which in turn started out as an umbrella organization rather than a political party. The "CD" in NUCD stands for Christian Democrats, a global party that established a beachhead in the Philippines through the late Senator Raul Manglapus.

There were some ties between the Christian Democrats and the founders of the original Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino, which was half of today's PDP-Laban.

"Sometime in 1984 or 1985, I was among those who joined the party while it was being formed," according to Silvosa.

He had known lawyer Zaf Respicio, a political leader from nearby Davao City, as well as Luis Santos, who had served as OIC-mayor of the city as well. It was the two gentlemen who convinced him to join the party being formed and led by Aquilino 'Nene' Pimentel to do battle against the Marcos dictatorship.

"We had policy direction, which the other political parties did not have," says Silvosa, and he felt that the PDP's left-of-center brand of politics was exactly what the country needed, given the crony capitalism and personality politics prevalent during the martial law years.

After the 1986 Edsa Revolution, parties came and went, with some coalescing with others. It was, he says; a confusing time but at least it showed the vibrancy of the country's newly regained democratic institutions. Silvosa simply went with the flow and believed that PDP-Laban was just evolving with the times.

Through the years, "it was only Nene Pimentel who stayed as a national figure of the original members from Mindanao;" he recalls.

From the distant National Capital Region, he says he was always aware that Mayor Jejomar Binay of Makati City was doing wonders in terms of delivering essential services to its residents. That Binay was also a longtime member of the PDP-Laban was something he was keenly aware of, and his city of Panabo was an eager participant in the sisterhood ries that Binay was forging with other cities throughout the country.

"Binay excites us," he says of the current vice president.

Silvosa says he expects the PDP-Laban—the real PDP-Laban which he never really left—will be a major force in the coming national elections. And he is proud to be a card-carrying member.

A hale and hearty 69, he says that he is certain to end his political career where it started, with the party that he joined almost three decades ago.



Conventional wisdom says that a person's political beliefs swing as one ages. In his 20s, he is enamoured with leftist ideals; in his 30s, he beliefs swing to the center; and in his 40s and beyond, his political persuasions swerve to the right.

Lito Lorenzana did not take this typical path in his search for what he believed would be best for himself and his country.

Today, he is a firm believer that the politics of the center is the best road to take. As head of the Centrist Democracy Political Institute, Lorenzana is taking his experience and his political learnings to the grassroots in hopes that enough Filipinos will accept his ideology to make a difference.

The CDPI traces its beginnings to the Christian Democratic party based in Germany. Now more than two centuries old, the original party was actually an unofficial arm of the Catholic Church.

The idea was brought to the Philippines by the late former Senator Raul Manglapus. Considered one of the most outstanding products of the Ateneo de Manila University, Manglapus had an illustrious career that spanned nearly four decades.

It is no wonder that Lorenzana considers Manglapus his mentor as he too was schooled in the Ateneo. Not the campus in Quezon City, but at the Ateneo de Dayao. Still, the reputation of Manglapus preceded him wherever he went, and his eloquence impst have been a major factor in Lorenzana's decision that this was the correct path.

Indeed, Manglapus could inspire with a few choice words like few men of his time could. Considered a bit of a dreamer, he dared challenge the political status quo of pre-martial law Philippines. Along with fellow Senator Manny Manahan, Manglapus dated put of a "third party" to challenge the supremacy of the Liberal Party and Nacionalista Party.

# PUSHES FOR POLITICS OF THE CENTER



That dream was known as the Party for Philippine Progress, and Lorenzana was one of its committed followers.

When martial law was declared in 1971, Manglapus and a few others went into exile in the US. It was during this time that he officially created the Christian Social Movement, which while espousing the same beliefs as its German counterpart, was also used by Manglapus as a pulpit against the martial law regime.

Lorenzana stayed behind in the Philippines during this dark

period, mostly in Mindanao where he was born and raised. Ever the political activist, Lorenzana was active in causes that would give Mindanao the break it needed from "imperial Manila."

It was at this point that he would get together with such fellow Mindanaoans as Nene Pimentel who fought the Marcos regime against the greatest of odds. Lorenzana would be part of the brain trust that organized the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino, forerunner of today's PDP-Laban.

Lorenzana would remain active with PDP-Laban for several years, from the fight against the dictatorship, to the glorious People Power revolution, up to the entirety of the administration of Cory Aquino.

He was actually a member of the Aquino administration, first as acting secretary of the Department of Local Governments (from 1986 to 87), then as DLG undersecretary (1987 to 88), and finally as undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (from 1988 to 1991).

His stint in government told Lorenzana that political extremism was too dangerous for the country's long-term prospects. Destabilization from the extreme left as well as the extreme right during the Cory administration resulted in lost opportunities for the country.

Having gone to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Lorenzana was eager to continue serving the country when the Gory era ended, but in another capacity. He felt that his years in active politics was now behind him, but because he was still relatively young, his past ties with the Christian Democrats were revived.

Oddly enough, the "politics of the center" that is the hallmark of the Christian Democrats hews closely with the centrist politics of the PDP-Laban.

He may no longer be active in PDP-Laban affairs, but for Lito Lorenzatta spreading the doctrine of centrist politics means that he is still part of the party, if not in body then at least in spirit.











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