

"KAUNLARAN SA KANAYUNAN, DIGNIDAD NG MAMAMAYAN"

13 April 2010

Ilustrado Restaurant, Intramuros, Manila

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROCEEDINGS: Forum of Vice Presidentiables

1. More than 100 delegates composed of religious organizations, civil society organizations, political parties and mass media attended the Forum on "*Kaunralan sa Kanayunan, Dignidad ng Mamamayan*" last April 13, 2010 (*Tuesday*) from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. held at Ilustrado Restaurant in Intramuros, Manila.
2. The Forum was jointly organized by the Catholic Media Network (CMN) and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in cooperation with the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and Land Watch Philippines (LWP) aimed at providing a venue for dialogue between vice-presidentiables and delegates from the civil society and religious organizations concerning the problems of Philippine society, particularly the various issues affecting the basic sectors.
3. Highlights of the Forum
 - 3.1. **Preliminaries.** The Forum formally started at 9:30 a.m. with a national anthem followed by an opening prayer led by His Eminence Msgr. Deogracias Iniguez.

Opening Remarks / Introduction. Fr. Francis Lucas, chairperson of ANGOC and president of the Catholic Media Network (CMN) formally welcomed the different delegates. He explained briefly the rationale/objective of the forum, which was to provide a venue for dialogue involving the five basic sectors (farmers, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk, forest dwellers, women) and the vice-presidentiables. He stressed that the forum was not intended for debate but to know the candidates even better - who they really are, what they think and their positions on pervading social issues affecting the basic sectors towards rural development. He was thankful that five vice-presidentiables postponed their provincial campaign sorties and preferred to attend the Forum organized by CMN cum CBCP in cooperation with ANGOC and LWP.

- 3.2. **Mechanics of the Forum.** Fr. Lucas co-moderated the forum with Mr. Ariel Ayala. The CMN President explained to the audience the flow of the discussion and the mechanics of the forum. A three-minute opening speech will be given for each candidate to explain briefly what he/she has done and will be doing for rural development if ever elected as vice-president of the Philippines.

For the second round, assigned representatives from the five basic sectors will be asking questions answerable by vice-presidentiables whose names are handpicked from a fish bowl by Bishop Pepe Quitorio. This is to give equal chance for all the candidates to answer the various issues. Each candidate will be

given 2 minutes for every set of question. A bell signifies the end of each candidate's turn. Another one minute will be given for each candidate to answer follow-up questions.

The third part of the program is for Catholic Bishops, priest and the religious to raise their questions concerning morality and the Catholic Social Teachings. Each candidate will be given 1 minute to answer questions and subsequently, another one minute for follow-up questions.

At this point, Fr. Lucas informed the audience that the organizers provided all candidates a copy of the survey questionnaire prior the start of the forum to be able to read, digest, reflect and study the survey questionnaire. In this regard, the moderator or co-moderator will read aloud item per item the questions raised by each sector contained in the survey questionnaire. All candidates will answer the survey questionnaire on rural development by raising their native fans marked with "Yes" or "NO". Each candidate may opt not to answer the question if they feel that the issue needs further study or if they are unsure of the issues raised at hand. At the end of the forum, they will be asked to submit the completed survey questionnaire form.

There will be an open forum but limited time only. Texters from the different provinces may raise questions to specific candidates to be filtered and read by the moderator and/or co-moderator. Finally, Bishop Iniguez will do the recap and summarize the forum.

3.3. **Actual Forum.** Mr. Ariel Ayala introduced the vice-presidential candidates to the audience starting with Mr. Perfecto Yasay (*Bangon Pilipinas*), Mr. Jay Sonza (*Kilusan Bagong Lipunan*), Sen. Loren Legarda (*NP-NPC-LDP*), Mr. Bayani Fernando (*Bagumbayan Party*) and Atty. Dominador Chipeco (*Ang Kapatiran Party*).

3.3.1. **Opening Speech of Vice-Presidential Candidates.** Each candidate explained succinctly what he/she has done and will be doing for rural development if ever elected as vice-president of the Philippines

Atty. Chipeco admitted that it's the first time he entered politics. He observed that there has been an urban bias over rural development. If ever he will be elected as VP, what he could share as a corporate lawyer and human resource manager is his moral ascendancy to push for favorable policies promoting rural development, of which 60% comprising the Filipino poor.

Mr. Fernando shared with the attendees that he practically grew-up in Marikina, which was predominantly agricultural land. Today, Marikina is an industrial city known worldwide for its garments and shoes. Unfortunately, most of these factories closed down its operations due to low productivity given the adverse impacts of globalization. If ever elected as VP, he will focus on improving and increasing productivity as a key to generate jobs and improve local economy. Hard work is necessary to increase productivity.

Sen. Lagarda began her sharing that rural development is close to her heart. She cited her past accomplishments being Senator and Chair of the committees on Agriculture and Climate Change as well as newscaster in her younger years pushing for rural development. As an ardent environmentalist, she sponsored the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and among others bills which resulted in the protection and conservation of the Philippine Environment. While the revised Agri-Agra Law, Micro-Medium Enterprise Act and Barangay Kabuhayan Act provided employment and livelihood opportunities to many Filipinos especially rural poor. If ever she will be elected as VP, she will continue pushing for reforms for rural development particularly those bills and programs she has been instrumental to serve the rural poor.

Born in Sta.Barbara, Iloilo, **Mr. Sonza** narrated that his parents migrated to Pampanga Sugarcane Center to work as farm laborers. At that time, land reform was already a perennial problem. Without yet land reform program under PD 27 covering rice and corn lands, they were forced to migrate in Mindanao where he became a farmer. He was proud to admit that he is a simple “probinsiyano” (a person who was raised in the countryside), a farmer and a broadcaster with over 20 years of experience serving the Filipinos. If ever elected as VP, he will address the problems of food insecurity by directing the Department of Agriculture (DA) to concentrate its efforts on rice procurement and discouraged the importation of rice. Adopting modern farm technologies along with post harvest facilities can do this. He will increase the budget of Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to strengthen local government. He will also ensure that the IPs get their settlement areas in pursuit for self-governance.

Mr. Yasay outlined his five-point program starting with (1) Eradicating bad governance, (2) Empowering the people from the clutches of poverty and powerlessness, (3) Educating the young people particularly developing their skills for employment and entrepreneurship, (4) Providing livelihood opportunities, and (5) Improving peace and order situation of the country particularly in Mindanao.

3.3.2. **Question and Answer Portion between the Basic Sectors and the Vice-Presidentials.** Bishop Pepe Qutorio handpicked from a fishbowl the types of sector with assigned representative, who have asked questions to the candidates. From another fishbowl, Bishop Qutorio drew the names of

vice-presidentiaries who have answered the following questions raised by the basic sector (*see Matrix 1*)

Matrix 1
Summary of the Basic Sector's Issues and Concerns

| Basic Sector / Assigned Rep | Vice-Presidentiaries |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A. IP Sector</p> <p>Datu Ed Banda, chairman of KASAPI</p> <p><i>On the Jurisdiction of DAR and DENR over certified ancestral domain claims</i></p> <p><i>On large scale extractive mining</i></p> | <p>Mr. Jay Sonza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize the IPs and develop their capacity for self-governance. He cited the ancestral domain of Mangyan in Mindoro and the need to obtain land titles over their ancestral lands. • As a basic principle, there should be community consultation before any development initiatives or projects can be fully implemented. There should be community consent and meaningful participation and the benefits must accrue to them. |
| <p>B. Fisherfolk Sector</p> <p>Mr. Cesar Hawak, Jr., Pumalu-MV, Batangas</p> <p><i>On delineating municipal waters based on "archipelagic principle" or determining baseline of municipal waters from the island seashore</i></p> | <p>Mr. Bayani Fernando</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The archipelagic principle is ok with him aimed at prohibiting large commercial fleets to encroach within the 15-km radius from the island seashore. This way, small fishers can be protected against big commercial fishers using unsustainable fishing methods that destroy the corrals undermining food security of the nation. Provided however, that such principle will give way to national interests of the State over local needs (i.e., consistent with common good principle) |

Matrix 1
Summary of the Basic Sector's Issues and Concerns

| Basic Sector / Assigned Rep | Vice-Presidientiables |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>C. Farmer Sector</p> <p>Mr. Ruperto Aleroza of PKSK <i>On the realization of the objectives of Agrarian Reform</i></p> <p>Follow-up question by Mr. Rene Cerilla of PAKISAMA</p> <p><i>On the implementation of CARPER particularly the access to affordable credit facilities for the small farmers.</i></p> <p>Presently, the small farmers are paying high interest rates and they are required to use HYV as precondition in availing production loans.</p> | <p>Mr. Perfecto Yasay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholeheartedly supporting the noble goals of agrarian reform for food sufficiency. He will support not only the needs of subsistence farmers but also, the net exporters of the products. • He cited the problems with the implementation of agrarian reform. The government tends to focus on land amortization but fails to ensure the delivery of support services. • .We must find creative ways to address Biofuels production, which should be planted in non-agricultural lands and not on prime agricultural lands undermining food security needs of the country. He also believes large-scale mining should be fully banned • Bangon Pilipinas advocates for zero corruption, which would generate additional revenues amounting to Php750 billion to be used for development projects including the credit facilities for small farmers with low interest, collateral free. |

Matrix 1
Summary of the Basic Sector's Issues and Concerns

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| <p>D. Women Sector</p> <p>Ms.Iza Gonzales of PKKK</p> <p><i>On women's lack of access to Social Security and protection while suffering from economic crisis especially rural women</i></p> | <p>Atty. Dominador Chipeco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two issues must be addressed in answering the question: (1) How to increase social protection for women, and (2) Addressing poverty per se.• There are already existing laws and policies supporting gender equality particularly increasing women's rights and participation for empowerment.• Concretely, he will conduct community-wide consultations on women's needs and submit the lists of their needs to concerned government agencies as part of his recommendations.• He believes that poverty should be addressed squarely regardless of gender.• He believes in the basic premise for policies supporting women's rights that they should be respected, dignified and be loved. Women should set good examples to their families and children. |
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Matrix 1
Summary of the Basic Sector's Issues and Concerns

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| <p>E. Mining Sector</p> <p>Salvador Dimain of PAAZ/KASAPI</p> <p><i>On the implementation of aggressive and large scale mining practices under the 1995 Mining Act</i></p> <p><i>On the protection of IPs against aggressive large scale and extractive mining practices.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the record, Sen. Legarda did not vote for the ratification of the 1995 Mining Act in all the forums. As far as she is concerned, the Mining Act of 1995 should be amended. She is not in favor of large-scale extractive mining. She believes in appropriate, responsible, and sustainable mining principles and practices. There should be Rehabilitation Funds allocated for mining to safeguard the interests of the community and the protection of environment. • She believes in upholding IPRA recognizing and respecting the rights of IPs. |
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3.3.3. **Question and Answer Portion between the Catholic Bishops, Priests and Religious and the Vice-Presidential Candidates.** Bishop Iniguez asked the candidates how they are going to address the problems on graft and corruption. While Fr. Lucas candidly asked them: As spare tire, what do they intend to accomplish for rural development in his/her first 100 days in office as vice-president.

A. On Graft and Corruption

Sen. Legarda. She believes in leadership by example, no graft and corruption under her term. The WB study revealed 40% of the government funds went to graft and corruption, which can be channeled to basic social services such as education, agriculture, etc. She said that graft and corruption leads to hunger and poverty. That's why she would speed-up the judicial process and prosecutes criminals found guilty of plunder.

Atty. Chipeco. The issue of graft and corruption is rampant and it is happening worldwide, not only in the Philippines. He will direct a Senate and Congressional investigation to address and resolve graft and corruption issues.

Mr. Yasay. Zero corruption is a centerpiece program of Bangon Pilipinas. Hence he will ensure the strict enforcement of the law.

Mr. Fernando. Justice system should prevail in the country. He believes that people in the Senate and Congress lack the skills in investigation,

which is basically a police work. Hence let the police investigate and produce evidence. Those found guilty should be prosecuted on plunder under Philippine law.

Mr. Sonza. He will not tolerate graft and corruption in the government, be it small time or big time because they constitute the same criminal offense. Those government officials found guilty should be penalized and prosecuted for plunder.

B. On Rural Development Program during 1st 100 Days in Office as VP

Mr. Sonza. He clarified that VP position is not a spare tire. The President and Vice-President have the same responsibilities and accountabilities to serve the Filipinos. As VP, he will make sure that the President is properly counseled. He will report to the Filipino people if the President is not working hard for the betterment of the nation.

Mr. Fernando. As VP, he will help the President set doable and measurable targets for each agency in the government, which in turn, will create pressure for these agencies to deliver their programs and services to the people.

Mr. Yasay. He will ensure that disadvantaged sectors mostly composed of rural poor are given importance and protected within the context of globalization and international free trade agreements.

Atty. Chipeco. As VP, he will give priority for the promotion and protection of workers' rights. He proposed a national inventory of skills for Filipino workers in order to support their needs for human resource development.

Sen. Legarda. As VP, she will visit the 80 provinces and conduct community-wide consultations concerning the proper implementation of the laws and programs that should be benefiting the rural poor. She cited the Agri-Agra Law, Solid Waste Management Law, Barangay Kabuhayan Act, Micro-Medium Enterprise Law, among others. Based on the results of these consultations and assessments, she will make the necessary plans and actions to improve the lives of the rural poor.

3.3.4. Texters

A. On Water Scarcity in Sitanghay, Tawi-Tawi

Sen. Legarda. Water is national security issue especially potable water. She committed to help the people in Sitanghay, Tawi-Tawi by providing water in any forms be it potable water system or for irrigation project. She asked her staff to get the cell phone number for follow-up after the forum.

Mr. Sonza. He asked the texter and people from Tawi-Tawi to elect a voice in that area where they have a candidate by the person of Mr. Sheriff Albani who can help them in their problem.

Mr. Fernando. Mr. Bayani informed the audience that the people in the area need potable water. He recommended the construction of Desalination Plant to remove salt from water through a filtering process. By doing so, salty water can be used for drinking as potable water and for other agricultural purposes.

Mr. Yasay. He will assess other needs aside from water and prepare a comprehensive and integrated community development program for the people.

Atty. Chipeco. Water is life. It is ironic that the Philippines is surrounded by water. But how come there is no water for the community in Tawi-Tawi? He will do whatever is necessary to help the people avail of their needs be it potable water system, irrigation and/or construction of Desalination Plant.

B. On Candidates supported by commercial endorsers allegedly viewed as “womanizers” (i.e., Willy Revillame, Manny Pacquiao and Dolphy)

Sen. Legarda. She is not in the position to judge commercial endorsers. She respects Mr. Manny Villar and the supporters of their political party.

Mr. Sonza. He expressed his concern with spending money lavishly for commercial endorsers. The problem is how to recover the investments of these candidates. He believes in personal endorsement representing the interest of the basic sectors.

Mr. Bayani Fernando. He is not in favor of commercial endorsers who are not setting good examples as role models for the youth especially, those endorsers with shady and questionable character on moral issues.

Mr. Yasay. Basically, the issue of commercial endorsement stems from traditional electoral processes, which is systemic in nature that strongly influence people’s choice based on popularity and money. He believes in promoting alternative political system where candidates are voted on the basis of experience, competence and platform of government.

Atty. Chipeco. He believes that those candidates using commercial endorsers have unclear platform of government and principles. His political party has no money for commercial endorsement but he believes that people will rally behind them because of their principled-political party system along with their programs for the people especially the rural poor.

- 3.3.5. **Open Forum with the Basic Sectors.** Five representatives of the basic sectors raised the following issues/concerns: (a) Rights of IPs to choose their NCIP Commissioner and demand for its re-organization, (b) Improving access to land through the passage of the National Land Use Act, (c) Violating women's rights under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) particularly in Mindanao, (d) Privatizing Fisherfolk Settlement; and (e) Displacing IPs communities due to large-scale extractive mining.

On the Rights of IPs to choose NCIP Commissioner and demand for its re-organization. Sen. Legarda affirmed that IPs have the right to choose their NCIP Commissioner representative and demand accountability. The NCIP should represent the IP sector. If not, then it should be re-organized to ensure that concerned authorities could hear the voice of 15M IPs. There is no need to wait for her to become VP because as Senator she could call for investigation to ensure that the incumbent NCIP Commissioner is doing his/her job well. Under IPRA, the IP should be represented in the board. The CSO could help re-organize the NCIP if found wanting. She reminded the audience that that the problems of IPs are cross cutting issues and not a stand-alone agency that concerns NCIP. There should be concerted efforts from different government agencies to address the IP concerns especially in the areas of agriculture, education, and healthcare, among others.

On Enhancing Access to Land through the Passage of NLUA Bill. Atty. Chipeco declared affirmatively that he will support the passage of the National Land Use Act Bill (NLUA) if ever elected as VP. The government should ensure that the problems on access to land involving the different sectors must be addressed properly so that deserving beneficiaries could benefit from it.

On Violating Women's Rights under VFA. Mr. Yasay replied that the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) must be thoroughly examined and it is only just for the Philippine government to demand the US government over its jurisdiction to ensure that women's rights are promoted and protected against abusive American soldiers who were found guilty of rape cases but eventually, they were allowed to scot-free in their own country. In this regard, the VFA should be amended. He reiterated that there should be no compromise if women's rights are suppressed and violated.

On Privatizing Fisherfolk Settlement at the Detriment of Small Fishers and other sectors. Mr. Fernando believes in the strict enforcement of the law because it is the solution to many of our woes that include the issue of privatizing fisherfolk settlement supposedly, a public domain and therefore, open for public use. If ever elected as VP, he will exercise strong political will to ensure the strict enforcement of the law.

On Displacing IP Communities due to Aggressive and Large Scale and Extractive Mining. Mr. Sonza elaborated that due to overlapping of laws and conflicting policies concerning the use of land, the IP sectors are adversely affected. He stressed the need to address the rights of the IPs. They should be properly consulted prior to the implementation of any

development projects affecting their community such as agricultural development and mining activities. The government should start giving priority to IPs and the local people who are the primary actors of their development over foreign investors. He believes that IPs have the rights to pursue self-determination and autonomous governance.

3.3.6. **Survey Questionnaire on Rural Development.** Fr. Lucas reiterated that all candidates must answer the survey questionnaire on rural development by raising their native fans marked with “Yes” or “NO”. They may opt not to answer the questions if they feel that the issue needs further study or they are unsure of the issues raised. Basically, the purpose of the survey questionnaire is for the people to know where they stand and what they think on the different issues affecting the basic sectors.

At this point, Fr. Lucas read aloud the following questions in Tagalog version, which were candidly answered by the candidates. Matrix 3 shows the tally results of the survey questionnaire.

Matrix 3
Summary of Survey Results concerning Basic Sectors

| Mga Katanungan mula sa mga Batayang Sektor ng Kanayunan | OO | HINDI | Walang Sagot |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|
| A. Magsasaka | | | |
| 1. Susuportahan niyo ba ang implementasyon ng batas sa Repormang Agraryo (R.A. 9700)? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| 2. Susuportahan niyo ba ang pagpasa ng National Land Use Act? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| 3. Lalabanan niyo ba ang mga polisiya at programa na hadlang sa pagkamit ng “Food Sovereignty” tulad ng palit-gamit ng mga lupang pang-agrikultura, pagupa ng lupa ng malalaking korporasyon o dayuhang grupo para sa biofuels o ineexport na pagkain, atbp.? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| B. Mangingisda | | | |
| 1. Susuportahan niyo ba ang paghahati ng mga <i>municipal waters</i> base sa “archipelagic principle” o ang pagtalaga ng baseline sa pagsukat ng katubigan ng isang munisipyo mula sa mga isla na sakop ng munisipyo? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Yasay | | Sonza (with amendm ents) |

Matrix 3
Summary of Survey Results concerning Basic Sectors

| Mga Katanungan mula sa mga Batayang Sektor ng Kanayunan | OO | HINDI | Walang Sagot |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|
| B. Mangingisda | | | |
| 2. Susuportahan niyo ba ang paghahati ng mga <i>municipal waters</i> base sa “archipelagic principle” o ang pagtalaga ng baseline sa pagsukat ng katubigan ng isang munisipyo mula sa mga isla na sakop ng munisipyo? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Yasay | | Sonza (with amendm ents) |
| 3. Susuportahan niyo ba ang paglabas ng <i>implementing guidelines</i> para sa <i>fisherfolk settlement</i> ? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| 4. Itutulak niyo bang bigyan ng kapangyarihan ang Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils (FARMCs), kung saan miyembro ang mga mangingisda, sa paggawa ng mga angkop na batas para sa kanilang sektor? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| K. Indigenous Peoples | | | |
| 1. Susuportahan niyo ba ang pagpapatupad ng Ancestral Domains Development Plan at ang pagsali nito sa Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) ng mga LGU? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Yasay | | Sonza |
| 2. Ipasasagawa niyo ba ang pagreorganisa ng NCIP upang maipatupad ang IPRA? | Legarda Chipeco Sonza Fernando Yasay | | |
| 3. Susuportahan niyo ba ang pagbuo ng isang mekanismo na magreresolba ng mga away sa pag-aari ng lupa sa pagitan ng mga katutubo, ng ibang sektor at maging sa Pamahalaan sa parehong lupain? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda | | Sonza Yasay |

Matrix 3
Summary of Survey Results concerning Basic Sectors

| Mga Katanungan mula sa mga Batayang Sektor ng Kanayunan | OO | HINDI | Walang Sagot |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| D. Mining/Forestry | | | |
| 1. Ipagpapatuloy niyo ba ang umiiral na polisiya na tahasang pinapalaganap ang large-scale mining sa Pilipinas? | Fernando | Chipeco Legarda Sonza Yasay | |
| 2. Susuportahan niyo ba ang maliit na pamamaraan ng pagmimina na mapapangalagaan ang kalikasan at sinasagawa ng komunidad? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| 3. Susuportahan niyo ba ang pagapasa ng isang batas para sa alternatibong pagmimina na aayos sa mga nagtutunggaliang isyu patungkol sa pagmimina? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda | | Sonza Yasay |
| E. Women | | | |
| 1. Susuporta ba kayo sa mga polisiya at programa na palalaksin ang paghatid at pagbigay ng mga pangunahing serbisyo sa kanayunan lalo na sa kalusugan, edukasyon at maayos na tirahan? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| 2. Susuportahan niyo ba ang mga batas na nagbibigay ng abot-kayang pautang para sa agrikultura sa lalaki at babaeng magsasaka? | Yasay Fernando Sonza Chipeco Legarda | | |
| G. Cross-sectoral | | | |
| 1. Pumapayag ba kayo sa dayuhang pagmamay-ari ng lupa? | | Chipeco Fernando Sonza Yasay | Legarda |
| 2. Pumapayag ba kayo sa dayuhang pagmamay-ari ng lupa? | | Chipeco Fernando Sonza Yasay | Legarda |
| 3. Susuportahan niyo ba ang Charter Change? | Fernando Sonza Yasay | | Chipeco Legarda |
| 4. Sisiguruhin niyo ba ang partisipasyon ng CSO at sektor sa pagbuo ng bagong MTPDP? | Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | Chipeco |

Matrix 3
Summary of Survey Results concerning Basic Sectors

| Mga Katanungan mula sa mga Batayang Sektor ng Kanayunan | OO | HINDI | Walang Sagot |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| G. Cross-sectoral | | | |
| 5. Balak niyo bang itaguyod ang paggamit ng mga GMO at biotechnology sa ngalan ng seguridad sa pagkain? | Fernando | Chipeco Yasay | Legarda Sonza |
| 6. Balak niyo bang magsagawa ng mga hakbang tungo sa Climate Change Adaptation para sa agrikultura at natural resource management? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |
| 7. Payag ba kayo sa pag-“rationalize” ng burokrasya lalo na sa DAR, DENR, DA at mga kakabit na ahensya? | Chipeco Fernando Legarda Sonza Yasay | | |

3.3.7. **Closing Speech of Vice-Presidential Candidates.** Fr. Lucas gave each candidate one minute to deliver their final message to the participants before the forum ends.

Atty. Chipeco. All candidates are aspiring for social change. If the people are seriously aspiring to change the traditional political system then, they should recognize the capacity of new candidates like him under the Kapatiran Party proposing new ways to effect social change.

Mr. Fernando. He congratulated the delegates of the basic sectors in their efforts to advance their interests. In his 17 years of experience in government service, he learned that everything depends on strong political for the strict enforcement of the law as well as the proper implementation of its programs and services to help the people. He is volunteering himself as “*bastonero*” or law enforcer to ensure that people in the government will be doing their job well. He is competent, just and faithful in serving the people with 42 years of solid experience in the field of public administration and engineering.

Mr. Sonza. He is not ashamed to admit that he is the only “*probinsiyano*” and farmer among the candidates. He believes that the rural poor deserved a better candidate and they should be prioritized especially small farmers, fishers, upland dwellers and women. It is a big mistake to entrust the leadership from urban-based candidates which the Filipinos have tried for many years. Now is the right time to give rural areas a voice in his capacity as VP. Those who will vote for him will not be disappointed because he is educated and willing to serve the people with 11 years of civil service experience. That’s why he is familiar with government programs. He has been listening to the problems of the people as a broadcaster for over 35

years. He studied the solutions to these problems and now, he is offering his service as the best candidate for the vice-president position.

Sen. Legarda. She is vying for the position of VP with green life platform and rural livelihoods. She was a UN 2001 Laureate awardee. She served as Ambassador for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. She believes that empowering the rural areas is a concrete response to widespread poverty of our country. She had accomplished what other candidates are aspiring to accomplish. She has planted 2 million trees and framed many laws such as Agri-Agra Law, Senior Citizens Act, Barangay Kabuhayan Act, Micro-Medium Enterprise Law, Solid Waste Management Law, Climate Change Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, among others to protect Philippine environment while promoting rural development. She allocated Php100 M funds for State Universities pursuing agricultural research and development.

Mr. Yasay. He thanked the CBCP for sponsoring the forum. He believes that the forum served as good venues for candidates to express their personal views, principles, experience and skills/capacity. He encouraged the attendees to follow the advise of CBCP not to depend on national surveys results. He believes that the best candidate fit for VP position is not necessarily leading the national surveys. He believes he has the ability and experience to serve the nation.

- 3.3.8. **Closing Remarks.** Bishop Iniguez thanked the attendees and the 5 vice-presidential candidates for attending the forum. He said that the nation is now facing a very important event on May 10, 2010 wherein the Filipino people will be choosing candidates for the development of the country. Two things are important for this matter, which the forum intends to accomplish, viz: (i) Filipino voters should vote wisely. They should be able to discern and choose carefully deserving candidates who should be running the nation. They should know the candidates well; and (ii) Candidates must be able to introduce themselves to the people especially their platform of government. This way, this will serve as basis for the voters in choosing their candidates.

Recently, the CBCP organized a concerned citizens movement called the Circle of Discernment, which has set criteria in choosing candidates. Simply put, LASER is basically an acronym, which voters may use as guide in choosing political candidates in order to have a meaningful national election on May 10, 2010, to wit:

L – ifestyle check – Political candidates should live a simple lifestyle;

A – action of candidates must be transparent and responsible with proven leadership ability and track record in government service;

S – upporters of the candidates should be trustworthy/credible; his/he relationships with family, relatives, friends, allies and network of supporters

E- lection conduct – candidates should be following religiously the rules

& regulation of COMELEC in explaining their programs to the people;

R – *efutation of candidates must be clean, no criminal case or records*

4. The forum ended at 12:30 p.m. Picture-taking and personal interviews with the media followed suit.

Prepared by: Dodgie Quitangon for ANGOC
Date: 19 April 2010