



**THE  
NATIONAL RECOVERY  
PROGRAM**

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## **NATIONAL RECOVERY PROGRAM**

The National Recovery Program (NRP) is inspired by a Vision of a peaceful and prosperous Philippines and a united Filipino citizenry. It advocates social equity as the essence of governance and equality and social justice as the true measures of a Democracy.

The pursuit of this noble vision would tread on a long, circuitous and difficult path and thus, would require structural changes to some institutional restrictions that have been hindering our progress and development.

The dire situation we are in calls for drastic, sweeping reforms and there is no way around it. Political concessions and accommodations would never solve our problems. The decisions must be hard and steadfast.

The NRP does not pretend to be a cure-all formula for our problems. Instead, its primary objective is to arrest the rapid spiraling descent of our Republic and lay the foundation for a truly strong Nation. More importantly, it intends to ignite a Moral and Cultural Revolution to finally free us from the clutches of greed, insolence, subservience, ignorance and helplessness that have been ingrained on our psyche through centuries of colonial persecution.

The NRP is a strategic package of policy propositions, which focuses on five key result areas of governance. These are: Peace and Order, Economy, Poverty, Population and Corruption.

### **PEACE and ORDER**

The peace and order problem is the main stumbling block to our country's progress. We cannot develop as a nation as long as lawlessness is prevalent in our society. Economic gains, if any, will be negated and domestic/foreign investments and tourists will be discouraged to come in. Worse, the atmosphere of crime and terror has prevented our citizens from enjoying the blessings of freedom and democracy.

To address the problem, Peace and Order is dissected into five areas of concern namely foreign aggression, terrorism, criminality, insurgency and secessionism. Each area is completely diverse from the other and, therefore, each requires a unique strategy for its resolution.

#### **A. Diplomatic solutions to deal with Foreign Aggression**

The Spratly Island Group and the Scarborough Shoals are the potential flashpoints, which could trigger a conflict with other countries. This

could be settled diplomatically by invoking international laws. As an added measure, bilateral ties with concerned countries would be strengthened. This recourse would be much more inexpensive than engaging in an arms race.

## **B. War vs. Terrorism**

Terrorism is a global concern. We have seen its ugly head many times over, mercilessly killing innocent lives in the guise of pursuing fanatical beliefs or ideology. It must be stopped and the responsibility for its extermination falls not only on the State but also on each member of society. This would be achieved through vigilance, relentless exchange of information and highly responsive law enforcement agencies.

## **C. Campaign against Crime**

Criminality is a menace of society. The past decades saw the rapid increase in crime incidence threatening business, tourism and, more importantly, the normal lives of ordinary Filipinos. While it is true that poverty is one root cause of crime, many rich and powerful people also commit these dastardly acts. Either way, there should be nothing to stop the State from protecting the other helpless members of society and applying justice to these criminals.

To effectively deal with criminality however, the other legs of the criminal justice system such as law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary and rehabilitation would have to be reformed.

### *The following anti-crime measures would be undertaken:*

- Reformation of the Philippine National Police (to be discussed below). This would ensure that our laws would be strictly and properly enforced.
- Conduct of entrapment operations directed to corrupt prosecutors/members of the Judiciary
- Cleansing of the Judiciary. The Supreme Court would be urged to cleanse their ranks of hoodlums in robes. All pending cases due for decision should be resolved within 6 months otherwise they would face impeachment (i.e. culpable violation of Sec. 16 of Art III of the Constitution) or direct ouster by the people. The people have “legitimately” done this to an elected President before thus, following this line it could also be legitimately done to the Supreme Court. The Judiciary is just as responsible for the present mess in our criminal justice system as the others.

- Reformation of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Any incidence of prisoner escape would mean outright relief for the jail warden and other responsible personnel. The BJMP facilities would also be improved to enhance the rehabilitation process.

- Filing of an anti-crime bill that would, among others, establish a National Identification System.

- Promotion of vigilance in the society.

\*It should be stressed that in addressing criminality, HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE RESPECTED AT ALL TIMES.

#### **D. Ending the Insurgency**

The CPP-NPA insurgency has been around for more than thirty years. However, the end of the Cold War in the 90's has removed the ideological causes for its armed struggle. Still, its demands for social equity and social justice are valid and should be dealt with.

*To end the insurgency, the following activities would be undertaken:*

- Reopening of peace talks with local communist leaders. This would directly tackle the demands of local insurgents so that regional peace could be achieved immediately.

- Delivery of basic social services. Medical and Dental missions, socio-civic operations and Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) activities would be conducted at far-flung barangays including NPA mass bases.

- Rural infrastructure development. Utilization of AFP Engineering Brigades for the construction of roads, school buildings, health care facilities and mass housing in far-flung barangays.

- Agricultural modernization. Rural employment and economic growth would discourage the rural folk from joining the insurgency.

- Agrarian reform. This would greatly address the problem of social inequity.

- Establishment of the Barangay Intelligence Network. This would enable the National Government (NG) to be abreast with the prevailing social, economic and security conditions in all barangays nationwide.

## E. Lasting Peace in Mindanao

The handling of Muslim secessionist groups is much more complicated considering that it has historical, religious, social, economic, cultural, political and military dimensions. Therefore, the strategy to be employed would likewise require a multi-dimensional approach. On the historical and religious facets of the problem, the Muslims and Christians would be made to understand that they are equally essential parts of a composite National Identity that is Filipino. We are all Filipinos and to fight this reality is futile and would only bring more bloodshed than it already has. All of us could be considered victims of history and we could argue and fight to the death and it would still not change our present predicaments. The best thing to do now should be to resolve our differences so that we could jointly move forward to a progressive future for our succeeding generations.

The social, economic, cultural and political dimensions of the problem should be addressed by a truly autonomous government for each major Muslim group (e.g. Tausugs, Maranaos, Maguinadanaos, etc.). The failure of the present ARMM is but a manifestation of how the diverse Muslim groups were completely misunderstood.

Nevertheless, those who insist on pursuing secession through arms would leave the State no other choice but to deal with them militarily.

The Abu Sayyaf group is considered a terrorist group and therefore, would have to be exterminated.

*The following activities would be undertaken to finally bring lasting peace in Mindanao:*

- Reopening of peace talks with MILF and other Muslim secessionist groups.
- Establishment of Autonomous Muslim Regions for each major Muslim group accompanied by a viable “mini-Marshall Plan” for each. This would finally allow each Muslim Group to completely govern themselves free from socio-cultural oppression.
- The filing of a bill calling for the institution of a National Identity to foster unity among all Filipinos regardless of social status, religion, ideology and culture. It would also include the ban on the use of religion and culture in describing crime suspects as well as the use of other divisive labels.
- Infrastructure development. Utilization of AFP Engineering Brigades for the construction of roads, school buildings, health care facilities and mass housing in Muslim barangays.

## **F. Reformation of the AFP/PNP**

A key element in the resolution of all these concerns is the reformation of the two major organizations primarily responsible for the upkeep of peace and order namely: the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP). Both institutions have been badly damaged and plundered by its treacherously corrupt and power-driven senior officers. While there may still be a few morally upright generals left in the AFP/PNP nonetheless, they have become so insignificant and impotent that they never made any difference.

For us to have any chance of restoring peace and order, these institutions must be reformed, cleansed and restructured.

In the AFP, the funds for modernization, intelligence, operations and maintenance were blatantly and methodically realigned straight to their pockets and lavish houses. All these were done while their men on the field, the lowly soldiers on foot patrol wearing dilapidated uniform and using antiquated weapons, were risking their life fiercely fighting for military victories, which their generals unashamedly took credit for. These soldiers do not even have their own house to come home to, as most of them are squatters inside military camps. To top it all, even their retirement pay was not spared as the RSBS was pillaged by the same military leaders.

The situation in the PNP, as everyone would agree, is much worse. We have policemen engaging in murder, kidnap-for-ransom, robbery, drug trafficking, extortion, bribery and illegal gambling. In short, the very institution that was supposed to protect the welfare of the people is the same institution that is terrorizing them.

*To reform the AFP/PNP, the following activities would be undertaken:*

### **1. On Professionalization**

All officers with the rank of Brigadier General/Commodore/Chief Superintendent and up would have to be retired. Should they refuse, they would be placed on floating status. This would give a new face to these organizations - the face of reform. Meritocracy would be the sole basis for the selection of the new AFP/PNP leaders.

- The tenure of Major Commanders would be fixed. The rapid turnover of officers occupying sensitive positions has resulted in the absence of institutional reforms. The senior officers often treat their present assignments as

mere stepping-stones for their next higher assignment. The tenure of every Chief-of-Staff would be fixed at three years. This would ensure that reforms could be implemented and institutionalized. However, an incumbent Chief of Staff may be relieved unceremoniously by the Commander-in-Chief for corruption, incompetence, negligence and other offenses. The following would be the fixed terms of other major commanders: Commanding General, Philippine Army, 3 yrs; Commanding General, Philippine Air Force, 3 yrs; Flag-Officer-In-Command, Philippine Navy, 3 yrs; Chief, PNP, 3 yrs; Commander, Southern Command, 3 yrs; Positions with rank of Major Gen/Radm, minimum of 2 yrs; Positions with rank of Brig Gen/Commo, minimum of 1 yr.

- Establishment of the Inspector General Service and the Judge Advocate General Service as separate branches of service under the direct operational control of the Commander-in-Chief. This would free these investigation, prosecution and judicial arms of the AFP from the pressures of their superiors so that they could accomplish their mandated tasks with a dispassionate and unbiased perspective.

- The curricula of PMA/PNPA and other military and police training institutions would be revised and should include modules focusing on leadership training, character development and nationalism.

- Conduct of regular value formation and re-indoctrination activities to inculcate the AFP/PNP personnel's selfless service to God, Country and People.

## **2. On structural reforms**

The PNP would be reabsorbed by the AFP. The PNP's character transformation to being civilian has worked disastrously against the interest of National Security and Public Safety. The re-absorption to the AFP would allow the PNP personnel to be subjected to military laws and save the organization from a total breakdown in discipline. Also, this would consolidate the major law enforcement agencies for better control and coordination during joint operations.

- Camp Crame would be dissolved and sold. The PNP headquarters would be relocated to Camp Aguinaldo.

- The AFP J-Staff would be abolished. In its place, a Joint Strategic Staff would be formed composed of the Commanders of the different branches of service and the Chief of Staff, who would be its Chairman. Its primary function is strategic planning for the AFP.

- The ISAFP would be under the direct operational control of the Chief-of-Staff.
- All arms and ammunition of the AFP/PNP, Government Arsenal and other manufacturers would be subjected to an inventory. A database would also be created to facilitate accounting. This would stop the continued pilferage of arms and ammo, which are either sold to the enemies of the State or used in criminal operations.

### **3. On Morale and Welfare**

Salaries of AFP personnel would be standardized to match their PNP counterparts.

- AFP/PNP personnel in combat areas would receive a combat pay equivalent to 25% of their base pay.
- Mass housing for all AFP/PNP personnel would be prioritized. This would be located at the vast military reservations nationwide.
- The RSBS would be overhauled to ensure that the retirement pay of all AFP personnel would be guaranteed.
- Improvement of Medical facilities and Health services for the AFP/PNP personnel and dependents.
- Increase of the subsistence allowance to at least P100 per day.

### **4. On Operations and Modernization**

Thrust on Internal Security Operations (ISO). All manpower and resources of the AFP/PNP would be focused on the resolution of internal peace and order problems.

- Assist in National Building. AFP Engineering Brigades would be used extensively in the rural infrastructure efforts of the NG. All other AFP/PNP units would increase their conduct of Medical/Dental missions and Civic-Action operations.
- The AFP Modernization Program would be reviewed. Basic requirements for ISO as encapsulated in the Shoot-Move-Communicate concept would be satisfied first before embarking on more ambitious projects.
- Intensification of intelligence operations directed against the enemies of the State to include the establishment of the Barangay Intelligence Network.

## ECONOMY

According to recent reports, our GDP and GNP posted growths of 4.6% and 5.2% respectively. While this may be true, the question is, who benefited most from this growth? The poor? The working middle class? Or the upper class?

To better analyze the true state of our economy, we would put forth some hard facts, which were not given as much emphasis. The unemployment rate is over ten percent. Investor confidence is very low and businesses are down. The Agriculture sector has contracted. And our total outstanding external debt as of September 2002 has surpassed \$50-billion. To top it all, we have a runaway budget deficit reaching P230-billion and is threatening to halt government operations.

We need to reverse this economic downturn quickly before it totally collapses.

Below are the key economic reforms/activities to be undertaken for our immediate economic recovery:

### **1. On Fiscal Administration**

Reformation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC). (to be discussed below)

- Initiate the amendments to our tax laws. These should include the following:

- A. The removal of the 32% income tax limit for high-income earners.

- B. The act of not issuing official receipts would become a crime (i.e. tax evasion). This would force businesses and professionals to pay the right taxes.

- Initiation of the repeal of the Automatic Appropriations Law (AAL). This would effectively de-prioritize debt payments. However, the payments for government bonds issued and domestic debts would be guaranteed by the NG. Also, foreign lending institutions would be assured that debts owed to them would not be written off.

- NG to make representation with “developmental” banks such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank for debt forgiveness.

- Eradication of bureaucratic corruption. (to be discussed below)

- Crackdown on smuggling operations.

• Implementation of the National Austerity Program. This would be applied to all national government agencies (NGA). The activities under this program would include the following:

A. All government funded foreign travel would be banned. International conferences earlier committed to by the NG would be attended by the Vice-President and no more than five members of his staff. This alone could save at least P500M annually for the NG and also enable the President to focus more on domestic concerns.

B. The procurement of service vehicles for all NGA's would be banned. COA would be notified that any payments thereof should be disallowed including procurement variations such as "knock-down parts" or substitution.

C. All Presidential Advisers and consultants would be removed. Services of consultants may be tapped only on *pro bono* basis.

D. NGA's/LGU's/GOCC's would only be allowed to have 2 consultants each.

E. Salaries and allowances of all Presidential appointees on all GOCC's and other private corporations to which the NG has a stake on, would be standardized and should never exceed the salary of the President. To ensure compliance, a contract would be executed between the appointee and the President prior to the former's appointment stating, among others, that any form of remuneration given in excess of the amount of the salary of the President would be returned to the Bureau of Treasury immediately upon its receipt.

F. Expenditures for meetings, conferences, ceremonies, trips, Christmas parties, anniversary celebrations, etc., would be set at a minimum.

G. All NGA's and LGU's would practice electricity cost-reducing measures.

H. Ceremonial functions of the President would be reduced to a minimum.

I. The Presidential Security Group would be streamlined.

\* While it would appear that undertaking these activities would reduce the aggregate demand of the economy, on the contrary, the financial

surplus expected to be generated through the increased revenue collection, eradication of corruption, bureaucratic streamlining, National Austerity Program and the repeal of the AAL, would be re-channeled to finance the rehabilitation and reinvigoration of the Agriculture and Industry sectors, infrastructure development as well as to support anti-poverty programs thereby spurring sustainable and equitable economic growth and productivity.

## 2. On Globalization

Globalization as a paradigm originated from 1<sup>st</sup> World countries. Thus, it is highly probable that the economists who conceptualized it did not dwell on its possible negative effects on developing countries. More likely, their foremost concern was how to tap the huge but protected 3<sup>rd</sup> World markets to advance their own economic interests. They shrouded this scheme by preaching that Globalization would ultimately benefit consumers of all nations, as they would now have access to the high quality, world-class products at the cheapest price.

However, the impact of Globalization on our country would be catastrophic. The infancy of our Agriculture and Industry sectors could not stand against global standards and would eventually collapse. This would result to the wholesale displacement of farmers and laborers across the country causing social unrest, anarchy and possibly, civil war. In short, we would risk the survival of our State just for consumer welfare.

Sadly, however, we are already members of the WTO and so are most countries in the world. Hence, any stand against globalization at this point has become untenable. Still, this should not stop the State from protecting its own interests.

The following activities would be undertaken to countervail the effects of Globalization:

- Review of WTO commitments.
- NG to make representation with WTO to move the full implementation of WTO agreements for another ten years citing National Security concerns.
- Protection of the Agricultural sector through the re-imposition of Quantitative Restrictions and Tariff on imported agricultural products.
- Reinvigoration, rehabilitation and modernization of the Agricultural sector.
- Protection and rehabilitation of dying industries.

- Reinvigoration and modernization of the Industrial sector.
- Removal of all tariff barriers on imported products used extensively for local manufacturing.
- Revisit the “Buy Filipino” policy to help boost the local industries and help foster National Pride in our local products.
- Launch an aggressive campaign to market export products utilizing Foreign Service offices.
- Spearhead the forging of a coalition of 3<sup>rd</sup> World countries within WTO that would protect the interests of developing countries.

## POVERTY

Latest NSCB statistics (2000) show that of the 15.3 million households in the Philippines, 33.7% fall below the poverty threshold, meaning 5.1 million families could not satisfy their basic needs. This was a 2.4 percentage increase from the poverty incidence in 1997. The poverty problem is also coupled with very minimal access to the basic social services offered by the NG, such as education, health services and shelter.

To alleviate poverty, the best strategy would be to generate employment and have at least one member of each family employed. However, the abject poor people in our society who are too sick, too old or too young for employment should receive help right away.

The following activities would be undertaken to alleviate poverty:

### 1. For the abject rural and urban poor

The Minimum Basic Needs strategy would be retained but its implementation would be directly supervised by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

- Establishment of institutional homes for the aged, the disabled, the mentally sick and the street children.

### 2. For the rural poor

- stem the influx of rural poor to the urban areas. The urban poor may even be persuaded to seek opportunities in the rural areas. The Agricultural thrust would include:

A. The immediate implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Rural Development. Rural employment would be generated through labor-intensive infrastructure projects like farm-to-market roads, irrigation facilities, post-harvest facilities, mass housing, school buildings and health care institutions. This would be complemented with provisions for Education, health care, electrification and access to potable water. Rural service for doctors and nurses would be expanded

*Agriculturalization.* The renewed thrust toward the protection and rehabilitation of the agricultural sector could provide the impetus for agricultural growth, employment generation and consequently, the eradication of rural poverty. In addition, this would Modernization Act.

B. NG mediation for the immediate release of the frozen Coco levy funds to be used for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

C. The break-up of the rice cartel.

D. Crackdown on smuggling of agricultural products.

- Wealth distribution through Agrarian Reform.

A. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) would be given a one-year deadline to complete land distribution after which it would be reduced to a branch under the Department of Agriculture. The DAR budget would be re-channeled to finance Agri-Agra loans.

B. Cooperatives would be promoted and enhanced as tools for the protection of the newly landed as well as to guide them in Agribusiness. It would also serve as conduits for the release of Agri-Agra loans.

C. The conversion of agricultural lands into residential or industrial lands would be banned.

## CORRUPTION

Corruption is the bane of our country. Its roots could be traced way back during the colonial era and is now deeply imbedded in our bureaucracy, our culture and our society. Previous administrations have attempted to eradicate corruption through words or actions, only to find out the futility of it all.

But now, there is a way...

Corruption in itself is complex. Corrupt practices should not be lumped together as one form requiring one formula in eradicating it. Each government agency has, through the years, bred its own peculiar type of corruption. Applying traditional anti-corruption strategies of inserting additional checks and balances would only result in the formulation of new ways of circumvention. In the end, the net effect is only additional bureaucratic red tape for the public. Another failed strategy is creating a super Anti-Corruption agency, which doesn't have an inkling as to where the corruption occurs.

The participation of the private sector is also not the remedy as they are often party to the commission of corruption. The culture of corruption is as prevalent in the private sector as it is in government.

Corruption, based on where they occur, can be classified into two, Operational and Administrative.

#### **A. Operational Corruption**

Operational corruption is where the act occurs as a result or as part of an agency's operational activity. An example of this is in the BIR wherein the common acts of corruption like bribery and extortion occur during the conduct of its operational activity that is tax collection. Corruption in other revenue collecting agencies such as Customs, LTO, Register of Deeds, etc., falls in this category. The PNP's corrupt practices of *kotong* and *hulidap* also fall under operational corruption.

To effectively deal with this systemic problem, it would likewise require a systemic solution. In other words, the very same agency, which created its own form of corruption, would be the same agency to be used to decimate it. This would be done through the imposition of performance targets with zero-corruption assumptions that would be set jointly by the agency concerned and the NG. This way, the NG would only need to monitor the performance as compared to the targets to measure the agency's success or failure in its anti-corruption drive. Agency heads who would fail to reach the imposed targets would be relieved immediately. This would force the agency head to apply the same standard to his subordinates and so on and so forth. Until a cycle of top-to-bottom reforms has been completed in that particular agency.

*The following tasks would be undertaken to address operational corruption:*

- Reformation of BIR and BOC.

A. All Commissioners/Deputy Commissioners as well as all the District Collectors of BOC and all the Regional and District Officers of BIR

would be relieved. This would give a fresh start to these organizations. Meritocracy would be the sole basis for the selection of the new set of BIR/BOC revenue officers and collectors.

B. New annual revenue collection targets would be set for both BIR and BOC. All revenue officers and collectors who would reach these targets would receive incentives. But those who fail to reach the targets would be relieved. This would again spark a top-to-bottom cleansing of their agencies since the pressure of trying to reach the targets would force the regional/district heads to set certain targets to their subordinates and subject them to the same reward and punishment scheme.

C. Tax audit of individuals and corporations.

D. Computerization of BIR and BOC.

- Reformation of other NGA's engaged in operational corruption using the same strategy as stated above.

#### **B. Administrative Corruption**

Administrative corruption is a different type altogether. It is where the corrupt act occurs as a result or as part of an agency's performance of an administrative function. This includes procurement of supplies, equipment and personnel, hiring of services, facilitation of contracts, processing of documents, etc.

To illustrate, one of the administrative tasks of the Philippine Army (PA) is to procure ammunition. Let us assume that according to procurement documents, the PA procured 100,000 rounds of ammunition in the amount of P2 million and that the said items were delivered. Everything was documented properly with the corresponding signatures and receipts and therefore, the payment was allowed by COA. In truth however, not a single ammunition was delivered. Instead, P1.4 million in cash were given to the Commander, PA. The other P600,000.00 were distributed equitably as profits for the supplier and as "lagay" for COA and the other significant signatories who facilitated the transaction. This form of administrative corruption is called "conversion" or "ghost delivery". How could this happen? Collusion. All persons involved in the procurement process were either involved in the pay-off or were forced to sign for fear of their superiors. As for the COA, he/she receives 1-2% equivalent of the total amount indicated in the purchase order to allow the payment for the transaction.

To guard against this type of corruption, the reformation of the Commission on Audit is the key. Under the present system, the COA is the primary instrument of the State in guarding against administrative corruption. Since the government is concededly immersed in corruption, one simple conclusion can be borne out that is, COA has failed miserably in effectively performing its mandate. Worse, it had often been an accomplice to the bureaucratic corruption it was supposed to guard against.

The following are the reasons why some COA auditors have a propensity for such negative bureaucratic behavior: (1) threats/pressure from the heads of NGA's/LGU's, (2) boundary exchange or familiarity with officials/offices being audited and (3) simple greed.

*The following activities would be undertaken to address administrative corruption:*

- The immediate implementation of the Procurement Reform Act.
- The cleansing of all NGA/LGU employee rosters to weed out "ghost" employees.
- Restructuring of COA auditing procedures.
  - A. Transfer of all tenant COA offices to the Regional Offices. Post-auditing would be done at the security of their own regional offices so as to insulate them from external pressure and prevent boundary exchange.
  - B. NGA's documents for auditing that are within the jurisdiction of a Regional COA office would be raffled off to COA auditors to maintain randomness and avoid collusion and bribery during post-audit.
  - C. Monthly random inspection of supply bodegas of all NGA's by COA auditors to ensure that the actual inventory reconciles with the quantities stated in the inventory reports. This would do away with such corrupt practices as conversion, *ghost* delivery and substitution.

## POPULATION CONTROL

In 2002, the Philippines placed third among Southeast Asian countries with the most number of people. The population now stands at more than 80 million people, with a growth rate of 2.3%. At this rate, the population is projected to reach 100 million by 2015.

The Philippines' rapid population growth has negative effects on economic growth, delivery of basic social services, environment and is one of the

primary causes of poverty. To address this problem, there would have to be a shift in the population policy from one that promotes only natural methods of birth control to one that promotes both natural and artificial means of birth control. It should be stressed however, that ABORTION WOULD STILL BE ILLEGAL and would not be condoned.

*The following population control measures would be undertaken:*

- Declaration of a National Policy to control population through natural or artificial means with an emphasis on the need to avert population explosion.
- Distribution of free or affordable artificial contraceptive devices to all health centers nationwide.
- Information campaign on population management subjects such as responsible parenthood, family planning, reproductive health and proper use of contraceptives.
- Inclusion of value formation activities in the curricula of Secondary or Tertiary levels of education.
- Church-State Dichotomy. The separation of Church and State is guaranteed by the Constitution. Hence, it is the role of the State to apply whatever strategy it could effectively use to address a particular crisis. In this case, in dealing with the population problem, the strategy to be employed by the State is to make artificial contraceptive devices accessible to the people and allow them to freely choose the appropriate birth control method that is suitable for them. The role of the Church on the other hand, is to influence its own flock whether or not to use such devices.



## THE AUTHOR

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*Gringo Honasan is a patriot of the Republic. He had risked his life so many times in the pursuit of his ideals and what he believes is right for our Country. Given the chance... he would risk it all again.*