



# ONE VOICE

The official publication of the Church People-Workers Solidarity (CWS)

July - December 2014 ✦ Volume 2 Number 1

Editorial

## Just wage, Human Dignity and Social Justice



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In February this year, 55 year-old Zaldy Avila, a worker at Manny Guarin Hauling Services (a company collecting garbage and wastes from various hotels, public markets and households around Metro Manila) fell from the garbage truck inside a junkshop in Payatas, Quezon city while clearing out garbages. He **hit his head in a pavement** and was rushed to a nearby hospital by his co-workers. He was pronounced dead on arrival.

The company gave his family **burial assistance and cash worth P200**. His death did not get media coverage and was not reported in newspapers or television. Most of the reports came from his co-workers who were witnesses to his untimely death.

Before his death, Avila receives P150/day for nine hours of continuous work.

## Opinion

Avila's work obviously include health and accident hazards which poses serious threat to his and his co-workers' life and well-being.

Such is the deplorable condition of some our workers in the country. And while thousands of workers work in hazardous working conditions receive below minimum wage, a report last September by Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) recommended that the minimum wage be relaxed because "the imposition of minimum wage had worsened unemployment." PIDS alleged that the minimum wage policy reduces employment and is "detrimental to the growth of the labor sector in the country."

What the PIDS study is trying to obscure is the fact that everyday, the right of workers to receive living wage is rampantly violated; that their right to "decent work" as stipulated by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to provide opportunities for men and women to obtain decent and productive work is neglected.



For obvious reasons, the study is meant not to uplift the lives of the working class people but to increase the profit of the so-called small and medium sized companies. Cutting the minimum wage will only worsen their already deplorable

conditions and will push them deeper into a life of poverty.

Labor center, *Kilusang Mayo Uno* out-rightly condemned the PIDS recommendation and vowed to push for higher wages. Other unions argued that removing minimum wage is removing the basic protection of workers.

Today, millions of "Avilas" suffer from inadequate wages worsened by skyrocketing prices of basic commodities. This, despite the fact that the government boasted of a 6.4% growth rate in the economy.

Instead of supporting and funding studies that will only worsen the conditions of the workers by legitimizing unjust labor policies, the government must ensure that the wealth and resources of this country be divided equitably. It is disheartening to know that the 50 richest families (i.e. Henry Sys of SM, Lucio Tan of Philippine Airlines, etc.) are the ones who are directly benefiting from the so-called economic growth. They who own big businesses accumulate wealth amounting to US\$74.2 billion dollars, i.e. equivalent to 27% of Philippines Growth Domestic Product.

*(Continue on page 4.....)*

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### Editorial Board

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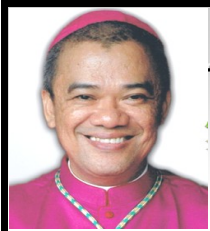
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*One Voice is published quarterly by the Church People Workers Solidarity (CWS).*



Bishop Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D.

### **CHRIST AND THE WORKERS**

#### *End People's Indifference!*

A few months ago, at the Pope's Angelus at St. Peter's Square, inspired by the day's gospel, our Holy Father Pope Francis deplored the poor conditions people around the world have to live with.

"Jesus calls to them and says: 'Come to me,' and he promises them relief and rest. This invitation from Jesus extends to the present day, reaching the many brothers and sisters weighed down by poor living conditions, by difficult life situations and sometimes by a lack of valid points of reference."

Pope Francis reminded pilgrims that in the poorest countries, there are people "who are suffering and even to the point of exhaustion due to the unbearable weight they bear of abandonment and indifference."

#### **INDIFFERENCE**

The Pope talked about the damage that indifference makes.

"Indifference. Human indifference hurts those in most need! And worse even, is that from Christians. On the margins of society, there are many men and women worn down by poverty, but also by dissatisfaction and frustration in life. So many are forced to emigrate from their homeland, risking their own lives. Many others, every day bear the burden of an economic system that exploits man, imposes an unbearable yoke,

which the privileged few prefer not to carry."

In Philippine society, we see so much indifference from the rich and powerful against the poor workers, informal settlers, vendors, farmers and fisherfolk.

*In Cebu, one factory worker shared that while working, his hand got eaten up by the machine. His hand was amputated. After which, he was terminated from work.*

*Vendors' stalls in a market got burned by a huge fire; then City and barangay officials did not allow the more than 300 vendors to rebuild their stalls, depriving them of livelihood.*

*Farmers in hinterland barangays are being driven away from the land they are tilling, to pave way for reforestation projects.*

*Fisherfolks are being displaced from their livelihood due to reclamation projects which damage the marine environment.*

#### **PORK BARREL IN THE BUDGET**

More Filipinos are getting poorer and hungry. Why can't there be programs for the upliftment of the poor from poverty? Trillions of pesos in the National Government Budget in the past and until today have not been used for the genuine development of the Philippine economy, for the lifting of the poor out of poverty.

We also know that there are billions of pesos proposed in the 2015 National Budget to become part of the discretionary funds of the Executive.

The proposed 2015 National Budget contains discretionary lump sum funds such as follows:



## Off Budget Accounts

179,745,522,000	
Special Purpose Funds	214,621,846,000
Unprogrammed Funds	123,056,081,000
Automatic Appropriations	103,507,999,000
Regular Departmental Budget	254,613,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>875,544,448,000</b>

Despite Supreme Court decisions declaring congressional pork barrel and the practices in the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) as unconstitutional, pork barrel funds are still being used and proposed. Pork barrel funds are evil since these have been sources of corruption and are used for patronage politics.

## PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

It is time to break the INDIFFERENCE in most of our people!

One step is knowing, understanding and participating actively in the People's Initiative to Abolish the Pork Barrel (PIAP). Last 23 August 2014, the PIAP held its NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS in Cebu City. It was attended by representatives from different sectors of civil society, and different religions. The labor sector was also represented.

The People's Congress approved the proposed legislation against all kinds of pork barrel. The said legislation also includes appropriate sanctions / punishments against violators. The People's Congress ended with the initial salvo of SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN at the Plaza Independencia, just nearby.

The signature campaign strives to gather at least 10% of the registered voters per congressional district. Then, a referendum would be called in order to pass the proposed legislation into law. No branch of government may veto or revise THE NEW LAW AGAINST PORK; only another People's Initiative can do it.

So, the CALL for us in the Churchpeople-Workers' Solidarity (CWS) is the following:

1. Get a copy of the NATIONAL UNITY STATEMENT, PROPOSED LEGISLATION and the PETITION.
2. Get a copy from the NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE of the PIAP of all the materials needed to run a signature campaign.
3. Mobilize all our CWS members to work hard for the gathering of signatures.

May St. Joseph the Worker, His Son the Carpenter and Mama Mary be with us. #

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(..... *From page 1*)

To deprive the poor worker from receiving a living wage is scandalous and unjust in the eyes of God. The Scripture is clear on this: "They commit grave injustice who refuse to pay just wage or who do not give it in due time and in proportion to the work done." (Lv. 19. 13, Dr. 24:14-15, Jas 5:4) Furthermore, the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds employers and economists that "just wage is the legitimate fruit of work."

Let Avila's fate be a reminder that "the economic well-being of a country is not measured exclusively by the quantity of goods it produces but also by taking into account the manner in which they are produced and in the level of equity in the distribution of income." Equitable distribution is not sought based on the commutative justice but also by social justice. [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 303].#

# Pope Francis' Message for 2015 World Day of Migrants and Refugees



*“The Church without frontiers, Mother to all.”*

"Migration movements call us to deepen and strengthen the values needed to guarantee peaceful coexistence between persons and cultures."

Pope Francis calls for “more decisive and constructive action” to deal with the phenomenon of migration, saying this will lead to “greater effectiveness in the fight against the shameful and criminal trafficking of human beings, the violation of fundamental rights, and all forms of violence, oppression and enslavement.”

This is part of the Pope’s Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which is commemorated on January 18, 2015. This year’s theme is “The Church without frontiers, Mother to all.”

Pope Francis says the Church “spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out

of place or disposable.”

“Often, however, such migration gives rise to suspicion and hostility, even in ecclesial communities, prior to any knowledge of the migrants’ lives or their stories of persecution and destitution,” the Pope writes. “In such cases, suspicion and prejudice conflict with the biblical commandment of welcoming with respect and solidarity the stranger in need...Jesus Christ is always waiting to be recognized in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and in exiles, and through them he calls us to share our resources, and occasionally to give up something of our acquired riches.”

Pope Francis points out that migration movements are today on such a scale that only “a systematic and active cooperation between States and international organizations” can be capable of regulating and managing them effectively.

“A more decisive and constructive action is required, one which relies on a universal network of cooperation, based on safeguarding the dignity and centrality of every human person,” he writes. “This will lead to greater effectiveness in the fight against the shameful and criminal trafficking of human beings, the violation of fundamental rights, and all forms of violence, oppression and enslavement.”

Pope Francis says it is necessary to respond to the globalization of migration with the globalization of charity and cooperation, in such a way as to make the conditions of migrants more humane. At the same time, greater efforts are needed to guarantee the easing of conditions, often brought about by war or famine, which compel whole peoples to leave their native countries.#

# **Update on NXP Semiconductors Cabuyao Incorporated Workers Strike**

### **A victory of unity and collective action**

*A statement from the NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU*  
29 September 2014

We are glad to inform the public, especially our supporters that last September 26 we workers of NXP-Philippines signed a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the management of NXP-Philippines, effective for the years 2014-2016. The signing of the CBA marks the end of our recent struggle to secure improvements in our working conditions by securing improvements in the CBA, which was met by the management with the illegal dismissal of 24, or almost all, of our union leaders last May 5, 2014.

This is a victory against the management's attempt to bust the NXP Semiconductors Cabuyao Incorporated Workers' Union-National Federation of Labor Unions-Kilusang Mayo Uno (NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU). It was also clear that the management was provoking us into carrying out actions which it could use as a pretext for our rightly busting our union. It wanted to deny us NXP workers of what we deserve: an improved CBA which contains a significant wage hike and the regularization of contractual.

This is a victory of the Filipino workers and people. The NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU is one of the oldest and biggest unions in the country. It is also one of the few unions in the country's

special economic zones, which are known for being havens for contractual employment and being very repressive of workers. With this victory, an important union is strengthened and steeled, serving as an inspiration to Filipino workers hoping to unionize. Our struggle underscores the necessity and possibilities of forming unions.

Twelve out of the 24 illegally-dismissed union leaders will be reinstated while the 12 who will not be reinstated will be given a decent separation package. The wage hike for the workers will be as follows: 5.25% for the first year, 3.5% for the second year, and 3.5% for the third year. Less than two hundred contractual will be regularized. An agreement was reached stating that all cases that were filed in relation to this labor dispute will be dropped and no retaliatory actions will be undertaken by both parties.

We wanted more with regard to the number of officials who will be reinstated, to the wage hike that will be implemented, and to the number of contractual who will be regularized. It is clear, however, that what we got constitutes a significant improvement from what the management was willing to give at the start. It also became clear to us that the management would go no further in acceding to our demands and that sacrifices had to be made on our part to get the best deal given the existing conditions.

*(Continuation on page 16.....)*





### All workers' unity for P16,000 minimum wage formed

“Social justice dictates that those who create the nation’s wealth be granted at least their right to a minimum wage amidst the increasing profits and wealth of a handful of capitalists and bureaucrats. We have every reason to believe that capitalists and the government can grant our just demand.” – Ferdinand Gaité, Courage

By **MARYA SALAMAT** (*Bulatlat.com*)

MANILA – Everyday, a worker in sanitation of Wyeth Philippines goes to work knowing he or she might pass out. It is all in the day’s work: swabbing with alcohol the walls and floors of an airtight room where the packaged no. 1 baby milk formula is to be stored. Co-workers enter the room to bring out a worker who passes out. When he or she regains consciousness, the job continues.

In a manufacturing plant of Pepsi Philippines, a contractual worker thrust in a job with machines yet unfamiliar to him died when his head was crushed by that machine. His family has yet to receive help from the company or the government, said an officer of ANGLO (Alliance of Nationalist and Genuine Labor Organization).

Even as they work in dangerous conditions for big,

widely known companies, Filipino workers receive only the prescribed minimum wages in their areas, or, as labor groups often complained, just a fraction of the prescribed minimum wage. Worse, historical wage figures show minimum wage levels in the country are always below the amount a family needs to live decently.

At the launch last week of a campaign for a national minimum wage hike, Ferdinand Gaité, president of public sector confederation COURAGE, said: “(Through labor struggle) our minimum wage had reached up to 50 percent of family living wage in the early 90s. But it has continuously gone down.”

In the Philippines, the first Minimum Wage Law was passed in 1951, following a strong campaign of progressive labor movement led by the Congress of Labor Organizations. But in 1989, this law was all but practically scrapped by two laws, which changed the way minimum wages are determined, said Elmer “Bong” Labog, chairman of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU).

Since the Philippine government enacted the law that created for private sector workers the regional wage boards, and for public sector the so-called salary standardization, the government “Basically returned the Philippines to a period without minimum wages,” said Labog.

With hundreds of minimum wage rates prevailing per region, district or province and industry, there is no real minimum wage rate in the country, workers groups said. An all-workers’ unity campaign aims to correct that.

More than 300 unionists attended the launch of campaign for a P16,000 per month national minimum wage, with a new battle cry saying “one class, one struggle.” Gathering at the National Printing Office in Quezon City, they took turns explaining why there is a glaring need for a national minimum wage and a significant wage hike.

The all workers’ unity was composed of national labor center Kilusang Mayo Uno, government employees’ center Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government

## **News Briefs**

Employees, teachers' center Alliance of Concerned Teachers, and health workers' center Alliance of Health Workers.

They traced the history of struggle for a minimum wage not just by Filipinos but by the whole world's entire working class. Labog blamed neo liberal policies for having attacked and broken the minimum wage.

Based on Labog's speech, neoliberal policies have translated to variously called programs implemented in different countries, all seeking to make labor cost cheaper, make it easier to hire and fire workers, and further enlarge the proportion of profits that go to capitalists. Described as "flexibilization" in some literature, these policies in the Philippines resulted in the salary standardization law, wage rationalization act, and different labor department orders such as those branded by workers as legalizing contractualization and forced overtime, among others.

Republic Act 6727 or the Wage Rationalization Act of 1989 created the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB), which has been the powerful body determining the varying levels of minimum wages for the regions in the country, Anakpawis Partylist Rep. Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

But the way the government performs this function is questioned by its own employees. From the labor department's NWPC (National Wages and Productivity Commission) itself, Elvie Prudencio, union president of NWPC employees, said the NWPC is inutile. She clarified that its workers are not. "We are fighting with you," she told the gathered all-workers' unions at the launch of the P16,000 national minimum wage campaign.

Prudencio raised doubts over the government's computation of basket of goods, of which one component is rice and the government has pegged its price at just P32/kilo. It is the price of NFA rice, which is not easy to find in the market.

"The government claims that minimum wages are

determined through public consultation. But how could that be when it is done in a closed door meeting?" said Prudencio.

In their unity statement, the public and private sector workers' groups said "The P466 daily minimum wage for private-sector workers in the National Capital Region and the P9,000 monthly salary of government employees on Salary Grade 1 do not cover even half of the Family Living Wage, currently pegged at P1,086 a day."

### **Significant wage hike for social justice**

"Social justice dictates that those who create the nation's wealth be granted at least their right to a minimum wage amidst the increasing profits and wealth of a handful of capitalists and bureaucrats. We have every reason to believe that capitalists and the government can grant our just demand," said Ferdinand Gaité, Courage national president.

Gaité also cited the recent findings of the Social Weather Stations survey showing that 55 per cent of Filipinos consider themselves poor and 43 per cent consider themselves food-poor, both figures constituting an increase from the previous year.

In calling for a national minimum wage of at least P16,000 the workers' groups are demanding the scrapping of RA 6727 and in its place, the enactment of a National Minimum Wage Law.

"Our groups have come together to fight for a P16,000 National Minimum Wage in order to strengthen the workers' and employees' fight for a significant wage hike and for the restoration of the national minimum wage," said Labog.

The groups said that P16,000 is half of the Family Living Wage computed monthly, and constitutes a significant wage hike that would give workers and employees immediate relief from worsening hunger and poverty in the country. #

Article from Bulatlat.com



## **Feature**

One of Religious Discernment Group's (RDG) role is to bring the religious closer to our people who most need our help and support: workers, farmers, fisher folk, prostitutes, AIDs patients , informal settlers, etc. In our encounter with the workers in the picket line of Express Coat Incorporated, Randy, also a one of the workers of the Express Coat, opened the day's activities with this prayer he himself made – handwritten in Tagalog. Herewith, transcribed as is and translated later by Sr. Alice Lansang, ICM, convenor of RDG.#



Panginoon, una po sa lahat, maraming salamat po sa inyo sa mga blesings po na binigay nyo po sa amin sa araw araw sapang pangkalusugan sa mga sakit na hindi dumadapo sa bawat isa sa amin. Na patuloy at laging gising na gumagabay sa amin.

At salamat din po sa mga bisita naming sa araw na ito na ginabayan nyo so silang ligtas na nakrating sa amin upong idaus ang pamisa at kaunting programa upang ilahad ang kalagayan naming dito sa picket line naming naway gabayan nyo po sila hanggang sa kanilang pag-uwi Lord!

Hipuin nyo po sana ang bawat isa sa miyembro namin na patatagin at patibayin at buo pa rin ang aming samahan wag po sana silang mag-isip ng negative ng bawat isa sa amin at alam naming nakakasira ito sa samahan namin kung ano man pong di pagkakaunawaan sanay mapagusapan po namin ng maayos at maging sa asawa at mga anak namin napatuloy pong sumusuporta at umuunawa sa ipinaglalaman namin Hindi naman po kami nagkukulang sa kanila. Upang ipaunawa ang kalagayan ng pagwewelga.

At hipuin nyo na rin po ang management namin na sanay matapos at maayos na po at makabalik na kami sa trabaho yan lamang po an hinihingi naming upang mabigyan na sapat na edukasyon para mga anak namin. Naway patuloy nyo po kaming susuportahan kung ano mang tensyon o balak ng management sa amin. Pagtibayin at patatagin ang aming hanay. Sa bawat pagkilos at sa pag-lakad naming bilang obligasyon naming dito sa picket line. Sanay lagi nyo rin po kaming gagabayan saan man po kami mapadpad sapagkat sa ikagaganda naman ng aming bayan . ang bawat pag-sisigaw at bawat paglakad namin.

At maging sa mga federasyon naming na patuloy at walang sawang sumusuporta sa amin naway lagi po sana silang ligtas sa mga kanilang gawain. Na sila poy nagbibigay ng lakas ng loob sa amin at patuloy pong ipinapaunawa and kahalagan ng pagwewelga naming .

At siyempre po patawarin nyo po kami sa aming sala nawawala na p o kami minsan sa inyo lalong lalo na na po ako siguro po sa kalagayan po naming dito pero di po kami nakakalimot sa inyo upang humingi ng pasasalamat at humingi ng kapatawan ng bawat isa sa amin.

-Si Randy po.

## **In Photos: CWS Activities**

CWS had its hand full in the campaign and advocacy in the abolition of pork barrel. CWS conducted fora /discussions, sign up drive in the different parishes, schools and congregations of the four dioceses in Metro Manila. Here is the list of activities that focused on the said issue:

### **ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA**

#### **Discussions Implemented:**

Church volunteers, Parish Pastoral Council, Journal Workers Union, Association of Nationalist Genuine Labor Organization and Aksyong Manggagawa.



- Forum on the Present Situation of the Filipino Workers and the Pork Barrel / Catholic Social Teachings on Labor was done on July 26, 2014, 1:00pm to 5pm in Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate Manila. The speakers were Professor Jerry Imbong of Letran University and Mr. Rimando Felicia, Chief of Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). About 70 participants attended the forum representing Malate

- On September 6, 2014, 8am to 12nn a forum on the pork barrel issue was held in the Multipurpose Hall of San Pio V Building, Sto. Domingo Parish compound. Among the participants were the priests, brothers and lay associates of the Order of Preachers congregation. The speaker was Mr. Nardy Sabino of Churchpeople's Alliance against Pork Barrel.



## **In Photos: CWS Activities**



Fr. Leo Distor, MSSC, the parish priest of Our Lady of Remedies Parish in Malate Manila, discussed a point during the forum on pork barrel.

- Another forum on pork barrel was held in Centennial Hall in CICM Provincial house compound on September 12, 2014, 1pm – 5pm. It was sponsored by Promotion of Churchpeople’s Response and CWS. It was attended by churchpeople coming from different congregations and local churches. Mr. Nardy Sabino of Churchpeople’s Alliance against Pork Barrel facilitated the discussion.

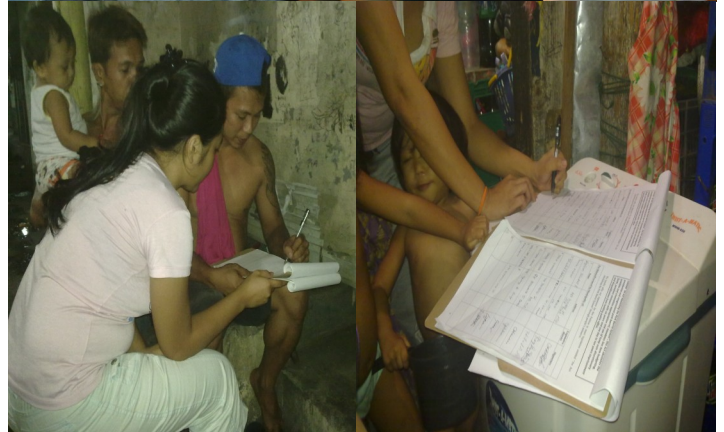


- On October 25, 2014, a forum on pork barrel was sponsored by CWS and Malate Catholic Church Public Affairs Ministry at the 2nd floor Audio Visual Room, Remedios Jubilee Mission Center. The speaker was Mr. Raymond Palatino of People’s Initiative against Pork Barrel (PIAP) and was attended by 60 participants led by the parish priest Fr. Leo Distor, MSSC.
- Small group discussion regarding pork barrel and sign up drive among members of the Youth Ministry of Sta. Cruz Parish was held on September 23, 2014. Its coordinator, Mr. Don Carpio and CWS staff headed the discussion.
- An Orientation and Discussion about the campaign to abolish pork barrel was held on October 7, 2014 among BEC coordinators of Sagrada Familia Parish who volunteered to do the sign up drive in their communities.



# In Photos: CWS Activities

This discussion was initiated also by Sr. Nenet Daño, RGS as the BEC coordinator head of the parish.



## Sign-up Drive



- House to House sign up drive against pork barrel in three barangays under Sta. Cruz Parish was made on September 24, 2014. Fifteen youth members of the Sta. Cruz Parish Youth Ministry volunteered to help in the sign up drive. Before the sign up drive, a discussion was made for the youth participants to understand the importance of the activity.



- Sign up Drive against Pork Barrel was done in Sta. Cruz Parish, Manila on September 15, October 12, 25 and 26, 2014.

Volunteers from Sta. Cruz Parish Manila Youth Ministry who helped in the house to house sign up drive against pork barrel in three barangays.

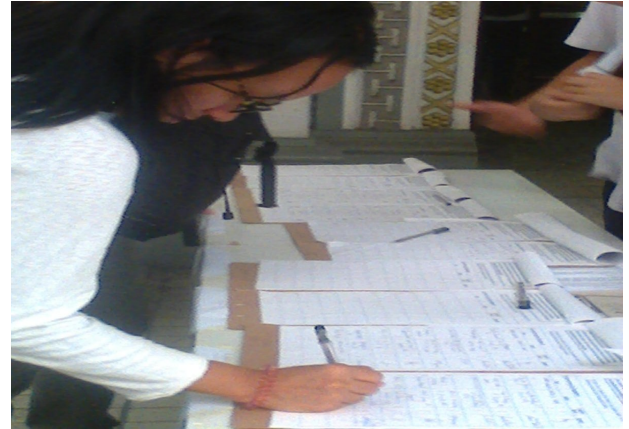


## **In Photos: CWS Activities**

- Series of meetings, orientations and assessment among CWS staff, Youth Act Now and other volunteers for the sign up drive in Sta. Cruz Parish, Manila.



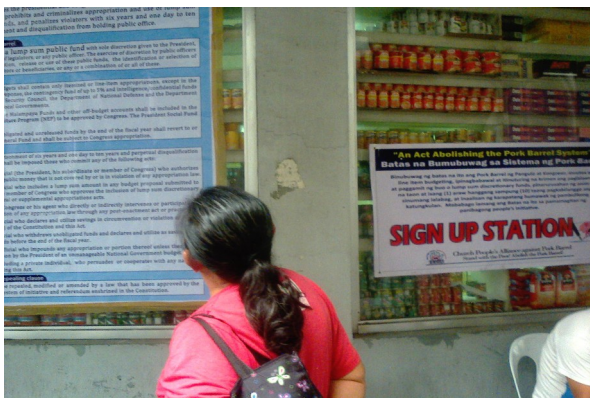
**CWS staff and Youth Act Now members oriented the volunteers on the sign up drive on October 12, 2014.**



- St. Vincent de Paul Parish Sign up Drive on September 25, 2014 with the support of Fr. Bong Sarabia, CM and students of Adamson University.
- Our Lady of Fatima Parish Sign up Drive on October 12, 2014



**CWS staff, Youth Act Now members and volunteers counting the numbers of parishioners who signed against the pork barrel in Sta. Cruz Parish.**



With the full support of the parish priest F r. Ed Coroza, the sign up drive against pork barrel was done in Our Lady of Fatima on October 12, 2014.



## **In Photos: CWS Activities**

About 10 volunteers participated in the activity which lasted from 7am to 9pm. Fliers explaining the issue of pork barrel was distributed to the parishioners who were interested in signing up.

### **Sign up Drive in Schools against Pork Barrel**

- College of the Holy Spirit Manila



- Colegio de San Juan de Letran



### **DIOCESE OF KALOOKAN**

- A forum on Pork Barrel was held during the clergy meeting of Diocese of Kalookan on October 30, 2014, 9am to 12nn at the Diocesan Shrine of our Lady of Grace. This was attended by 60 priests and the Bishop – Administrator of the Diocese, Most Rev. Francisco de Leon. The speaker was Ms. Iris Capus of Church people's Alliance against Pork Barrel. The highlight of the forum was the full support and commitment of the bishop and priests to the sign up drive in their parishes.





# In Photos: CWS Activities



On October 25, 2014, a Forum on Pork Barrel & Launching of People Initiative Against Pork Barrel Sign Up Drive was held in Resurrection of our Lord Parish in BF Homes Paranaque. It was attended by 150 participants coming from Veritas Parochial School, Parish Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus, Youth Ministry, Education Committee of the parish, religious congregations and different people's organizations. Mr. Nardy Sabino of Churchpeople's Alliance against pork Barrel was the speaker. #



- Sign up drive every Sunday starting October 2014 was done in parishes of Kalookan – San Jose Parish, Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, St. Joseph the Workman Parish. Volunteers from CWS Kalookan and other people's organizations helped in the activities.

## DIOCESE OF PARAÑAQUE





## **News Briefs**

(..... From page 6)

We salute the rank-and-file members of NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU without whose unity in principle and action, courage, and determination, this victory would not have been possible. Our heartfelt “Thank you!” goes to our supporters: our families, fellow workers and union members, progressive sectoral organizations and partylist groups, pro-worker institutions and legislators, church people through the Churchpeople Workers Solidarity, Filipino migrant communities in various countries, workers and unions in various countries, and global workers’ organizations.

Many lessons were affirmed in the course of this struggle. Foremost among these is the need for unity and collective action in defending and upholding workers’ rights. Struggling against a multinational giant like NXP Semiconductors indeed entails unity and collective action at so many levels and in so many forms. This struggle is a most memorable experience which we will draw inspiration from for the rest of our lives – inspiration in continuing to work for unity and collective action for workers’ rights.

We know that under the present socio-economic system, victories of workers and ordinary people are always temporary and fragile and can be taken back by the ruling elite. We vow to be vigilant in guarding this victory and to continue consolidating and strengthening our ranks. We vow to help other workers form unions and fight for their rights. We vow to develop broader and stronger unity with fellow workers and other sectors of society in fighting for workers’ rights and for fundamental social change. #

### **Church People-Workers Solidarity (CWS) CONVENORS**

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Archbishop of Cebu

**Most Rev. Broderick S. Pabillo, D.D.**

Auxiliary Bishop of Manila

**Most Rev. Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D.**

Bishop-Elect, Diocese of San Carlos/Chairperson of CWS

**The Most Rev. Ephraim S. Fajutagana**

Obispo Maximo of Iglesia Filipina Independiente

**Fr. Quirico Pedregosa Jr., OP**

Rector of UST Central Seminary

**Mo. Mary John Mananzan, OSB**

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**Mr. Casmero Mahilum**

Visayan Electric Company Employees Union

**Mr. Eleazar Abaja**

Pinagbuklod na Lakas ng Manggagawa sa Plantasyon ng

Agusan Plantation, Inc.

**Ms. Leonida Tundagui**

Cordillera Labor Center

**Mr. Dexter Datu**

International Wiring Systems Workers’ Union

**Ms. Venus Culili**

Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research

**Ms. Daisy Arago**

Center for Trade Union and Human Rights

**Mr. Garry Martinez**

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**Mr. Steve Ranjo**

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