



empowering.

effective.

ethical.

Rationale

Secretary Jesse Robredo, the embodiment of the ideal values of a man and a public servant, may have left a country in dire need of his kind of leadership, but his spirit lives on in every individual he encountered and institutions he built or recreated.

The best tribute that can be given Secretary Robredo is to continue his legacy of dedicated, committed, humble and selfless public service, and to clamor and genuinely work for good governance. His brand of leadership has to be spread further along with the good news of Secretary Robredo that good governance is indeed possible, and that every Filipino should demand for it for national transformation to take place.

To make these happen, the Galing Pook Foundation is conducting the annual Jesse Robredo Leadership Award, and is promoting the lessons and inspirations of his kind of governance that is hoped to become the norm rather than an exception especially in public institutions.

Objectives

The Jesse Robredo Leadership Award will seek to:

1. Recognize local chief executives who have shown effective, transparent, accountable, participatory, innovative and ethical leadership;
2. Showcase a culture of excellence in local governance through the institutionalization of policies, systems and practices; and
3. Motivate LGU leaderships and communities to sustain and enhance meritorious programs.

Eligibility and Qualifications

To be eligible for the Jesse Robredo Leadership Award, a local chief executive should:

1. Be an incumbent municipal/city mayor or governor;
2. At least into his/her second term;
3. His/her LGU has a Seal of Good Housekeeping and is a Galing Pook Awardee.

Criteria

1. Effective (service delivery, economic development, efficiency, investing in people, poverty reduction, mobilizing people)
2. Transparent and accountable (Seal of Good Housekeeping)
3. Innovative (Galing Pook Awards and other reputable recognitions)
4. Participatory and empowering (partnerships, inclusiveness)
5. Ethical (no verifiable questionable transactions and activities)

Jesse Robredo Leadership Award



Miguel Rene Alcantara Dominguez did not originally set out to become governor even if he belonged to a political clan. He was well on his way toward becoming the top marketing man of their family-owned company when he was suddenly thrust into the political limelight.

While growing up in Davao City, Miguel studied at the Ateneo de Davao University. He later enrolled at the University of the Philippines but midway into his studies, he went to the United States to complete his economics degree from Boston University. After finishing college, he went straight home to Sarangani to start as a mid-level executive of Alsons Aquaculture Corporation. He was successful in selling the company's milkfish – Sarangani Prime Bangus – to markets in China, Canada, US and some parts of Europe.

After five successful years in the aquaculture business, Miguel suddenly found himself as the substitute for his father, who withdrew from the Sarangani gubernatorial elections in 2004. His first time to actually join the political race, Miguel mustered the courage to win the gubernatorial post and is now on his third and final term. Under his tenure, Governor Migs (as he is known to his constituents) transformed Sarangani from a 4th class, conflict ridden province into a bastion of good governance.

Sarangani's poverty ranking went down from 11th poorest province to 17th between 2003 to 2006, although it ranked 12th in 2009. Education indices showed that the percentage of Sarangani Schools with National Achievement Test (NAT) scores of 75 and above steadily increased from 0% in 2007 to 35% by 2012. These accomplishments were the result of innovative programs introduced by the Sarangani LGU.

In 2004, Governor Migs and the provincial Peace and Development Task Force put together a Comprehensive Peace and Development Plan, which became the technical blueprint for the creation of an innovative peace and development program for Sarangani Province. To hasten the disposition of cases involving indigent litigants whose family member remained a detainee in jail because of the slow legal dispensation, the provincial LGU designed and implemented the Justice Enhancement and Empowerment Program in 2006, which involved the deployment of a mobile court to the hinterlands. This program has led to the speedy resolution of court cases and empowered community leaders to mediate petty disagreements. Convinced that a good education can be a key out of poverty, Governor Migs and the provincial LGU launched the Quality Education for Sarangani Today program in 2007 to improve the

children's access to basic elementary and secondary education.

All of these abovementioned programs became Galing Pook awardees – the award is a recognition for innovation and excellence in governance. The province's Indigenous People's Development Program (IPDP) also became a Galing Pook Award finalist. The IPDP aims to assist in the acquisition of IP tenurial instruments in ancestral domains and facilitate the provision of socio-economic and environmental services in indigenous cultural communities.

Under Governor Migs' term, the Sarangani LGU was also awarded the Seal of Good Housekeeping in recognition of its exemplary performance in governance, transparency and accountability. Conferred by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Seal is given to local government units (LGUs) that have excelled in the areas of planning, budgeting, revenue mobilization, financial management and budget execution, procurement, and resource mobilization.

Admitted as a Dwight Eisenhower fellow in 2009, Governor Migs also sits as a member of the Board of Trustees of Synergeia Foundation, a coalition of individuals, organizations and institutions that aims to improve basic education.

Governor Migs is only 35 years old, yet he has clearly demonstrated how good governance should be practiced and pursued. Undoubtedly, this is precisely what has endeared him to his constituents and how he has gained the tremendous respect of his peers.





A Tribute to Jesse Robredo

In 1991, the Local Government Code was passed decentralizing the functions of delivering basic services from the central government to the provinces, the cities, municipalities and barangays. Three years later, in 1994, Galing Pook started recognizing best practices in local governance by local government units based on impact, citizen participation, innovation, replicability and sustainability. During that year, Naga City, under the leadership of Jesse Robredo, garnered its first Galing Pook awards for outstanding local governance program. To date, Naga City has received a total of 14 Galing Pook awards (7 outstanding, 3 trailblazing and 4 special citations). It is now the most awarded LGU in the country from the Galing Pook Foundation. Taken all together, these awards give us ten lessons and guideposts, according to Jesse Robredo and Naga City, in practicing good local governance.

Lessons and Guideposts for Good Local Governance

1 Improve Productivity. Naga City embarked on a program that aimed to bring out the full potential of various departments and offices of the entire city government. It had four main thrusts of (a) providing sufficient services to meet the requirements of the population; (b) getting optimum outputs with minimum expenditures; (c) producing quality results as desired and planned; and (d) making services accessible and acceptable on the principle of “the greatest good for the greatest number.”

2 Computerize. The city created an effective and efficient management system that streamlined business transaction processes, provided a dependable database for more effective decision-making, and made the city administration more responsive to its citizen’s needs. The program components – management information system, geographic information system and minimum basic needs database – enabled the city government to establish a local database of household population for every barangay. Support functions were ensured in all line departments integrating revenue generation and social development to deliver excellent services to the constituents.

3 Empower the People. The city government laid down a clear and comprehensive framework that allows its constituents to take active part in governance. Nagueños are able to voice their concerns and suggestions to the City Hall and act on various issues – from procurement to budgeting, to scuttling an initial plan of the local government to allow a golf course. The program facilitated the engagement of 193 non-government and people’s organizations with the local government. It led to the institutionalization of the Naga City People’s Council which counts NGOs, POs, cooperatives, barangays, and everyone whose voices need to be heard, as members.

4 i-Govern. The city operationalized the “power of information” and its value as a truly empowering tool when made accessible for the people. Nagueños need only go online for their business license, birth certificate, or even when they want to bid for government procurements. People get what they need faster and more efficiently, practically free from red tape and grease money. Through i-Governance, Naga City also promotes good governance by providing the people with information on city government policies, programs, and operations.

5 Reinvent Institutions. In the reinvented school board of Naga City, the structure ensures transparency, accountability, participation, and predictability. The membership has been expanded to include representatives from the academe, business, religious, alumni associations, and non-government organizations. The NCSB prepares the local education plan and budget with strong citizen participation. It also made education officials accountable to the public and identified alternative ways of developing and financing the local education plan by mobilizing internal and external resources.

6 Train the Youth. The City Youth Month Program of Naga engaged the city’s top youth leaders to compete for the chance to land in one of the 45 slots that would put them at the executive and legislative positions, as well as in the non-government sector as Naga City People’s Youth Council representatives that embody Naga’s unique participatory governance model. While there are limits to the authority extended to the City Youth Officials during their term, they are given a wide leeway in running the affairs of the city government. The project enhanced the involvement of the youth in government affairs.

7 Be Prepared Always. Started in May 1991, Emergency Rescue Naga addresses the urgent need for fast and reliable service in times of emergency. ERN provides 24-hour quick response medical and protective services to all Naga City residents in crisis situations. The program mobilizes the combined resources of the city government such as the police and fire departments, the local association of barangay councils, government-owned and private hospitals and schools, radio stations, local amateur radio groups and private medical volunteers.

8 Prioritize the Marginalized. The city launched the Kaantabay sa Kauswagan or Partners in Development Program in 1989 to address issues in a way that is fair for both the informal settlers and landowners and that will discourage informal settling for good. The program is guided by two key principles. First, the government will not help the urban poor unless they actively participate in solving their own problems. Informal settlers have to organize, settle their own boundary disputes, negotiate with landowners, and make down payments for their home lots with substantial support from the city government together with its three partner NGOs. Second, is the tripartite effort among the urban poor organizations, national and local government agencies, and landowners in which the interests and abilities of each party are taken into account.

9 Invest in Children. Evolving from the traditional day care services of the DSWD and complemented by the Montessori system in pre-school education, the comprehensive and innovative program addresses the need for improved access and equity in quality education for the young city residents. It was conceptualized by the city government, in cooperation with the parents association, barangay councils and NGOs. Since its inception in 1992, the NEED program has successfully revolutionized the concept of the day care service in Naga City forging a high level of synergy between program managers and participants.

10 Together, We Can Do Better. The Metro Naga Development Council, a partnership among the LGUs, pools together the efforts and resources of 13 local government units, the private sector and the national government agencies in Camarines Sur focusing on projects and activities which address the immediate needs of the community and lay the groundwork for the long-term growth in the area. MNDC, with specific task forces, focuses on the maximization of resources to reach more constituents widening the target coverage with practically the same logistical capacity.