

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN DECLARATION

A Call for One Strong Cooperative Movement

“CONVERGENCE OF BILLIONAIRE AND MILLIONAIRE COOPERATIVES”

Puerto Princesa City

June 17, 2014

With a firm collective intent to establish one strong cooperative movement in the country, we, the cooperative leaders attending the National Convergence of Billionaire and Top Millionaire Cooperatives, are sending forth from Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, a clarion call to the more than 23,600 cooperatives nation-wide with some 13 million members to debunk divisiveness, competition and apathy as such are fiction to the cooperatives whose strength lies on solidarity, cooperation and societal concern and whose identity relates to social justice, equity, sustainability and social transformation.

Knowing that social change has been elusive all these years despite 14 years of Martial Law and two people-powered revolutions; there may be “changing of the guards” but the structures that perpetuate poverty, social injustice and gross inequities are as formidable as ever, where poverty has become second skin to 50% of our people while a few elite, fronted by cartels, monopolies and conglomerates, tightens its stranglehold of the economy, where vested interest and corruption reign supreme despite the sincere effort for reform while the vast majority is left sharing the shrinking pie and are puzzled no end why 70% of the GDP in 2012 was pocketed by only 50 families.

Conscientized on how business elite works closely with the political elite, shamelessly giving credence to the dictum that economic power begets political power and vice versa, preserving their gains and hold of the country’s economy and wealth;

Conscious that the dominant development paradigm anchored on the neo-liberal capitalism, which is based on the individual pursuit for self aggrandizement and wealth, following the growth-at-all-cost strategy, where money is used to make more money instead of using it to enhance the well-being of the people and the environment, is not economically and ecologically sustainable, which is only successful in sacrificing the people and Mother Earth to the altar of greed and profit;

Fearful that in the absence of a major change, the global system will collapse in less than one hundred years as the earth’s tipping point has been reached as manifested by the increasing warming of the earth, the rising of the seas, the extinction of species and ecological disasters becoming the new “normal”.

Mindful of the International Co-operative Alliance’s blueprint for a Cooperative Decade to address the “growing social unrest, economic stagnation, iniquities, resource depletion and the insecurity of the future generations in meeting their basic needs,” it has become imperative

for the Philippine cooperatives to participate in the strategic agenda that position the cooperatives as “builders of sustainability.”

Realizing that for us to survive and succeed the Asian Economic Community by 2015 where there will be free flowing of products, services, capital, investments and skilled labour, we must now effect paradigm shift where the cooperatives harness their collective potentials, where the marginalized sectors are drawn into the mainstream of development processes and where the people have access and control over their resources and utilities and where wealth and power are democratized;

Today, we serve notice to one and all that we have awakened and that we will not allow anymore the culture of poverty, corruption, inequity and powerlessness to continue as we launch a collectivist counterculture through one strong cooperative movement.

WE FIRMLY COMMIT TO FORGE OUR ONENESS, TO EFFECT PARADIGM SHIFTS, BUILDING AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF COOPERATIVES A STRONG ALLIANCE OF AN EMPOWERED PEOPLE.

WITH OUR HIGHEST ADHERENCE TO THE TENETS OF COOPERATIVISM AND WITH UTMOST DEDICATION, WE NOW CREATE A UNITED FRONT AS A LEADING EDGE IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION TO ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA:

1. WE WILL PROMOTE and advance SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY THROUGH COOPERATIVISM WHICH IS THE PEOPLE’S PREFERRED ECONOMIC MODEL, WHERE THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT ARE THE PRIORITIES RATHER THAN BUSINESS AND PROFIT and thereby debunk gross inequities to have inclusive growth, and never exclusive
2. WE WILL HARNESS COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO CREATE A STRONG COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT THROUGH INTEGRATION AND CONSOLIDATION, PURSUING UNRELENTING EFFORTS AND UNWAVERING CAMPAIGN FOR AMALGAMATION OF SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND EVEN ORGANIZATIONAL TO OPTIMIZE THE STRENGTH IN NUMBERS AND MAXIMIZE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIES OF SCALE. **TO CONCRETIZE THIS AMALGAMATION, WE ARE DECLARING PCC AS THE APEX ORGANIZATION OF COOPERATIVES.** WE ENCOURAGE NATCCO AND MASS-SPECC, CLIMBS AND CISP AND ALL COOPERATIVE BANKS AND FEDERATIONS TO PUT THIS AGENDA IN MOTION WITHIN ONE YEAR AND FOR CDA AND PCC TO JOINTLY MONITOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THESE CHAMPIONS WHICH WILL INSPIRE ALL OTHERS TO FOLLOW WHICH WILL BE THE THRESHOLD OF UNIFICATION TOWARDS ONE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT.
3. WE WILL WORK TOWARDS BUILDING A STRONG SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND MECHANISM BE IT ON ESTABLISHING LIQUIDITY, INVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION FUND OR IN COOPERATIVE INSURANCE TO STRENGTHEN OUR COOPERATIVES.

4. WE WILL ENHANCE LINKAGING AND NETWORKING, INTRODUCING STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET INCLUDING E-TRADE.
5. WE WILL BE THE COPING MECHANISM TO THE CHALLENGES POSTED BY AEC 2015 BY PROMOTING VALUE-CHAIN APPROACH IN COOPERATIVE SYSTEM WHEREBY THE COMPLEMENTATION OF PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND FINANCIAL COOPERATIVE SYSTEMS ARE ESTABLISHED IN A DYNAMIC SYSTEM FROM EXCLUSIVE TO INCLUSIVE GROWTH.
6. WE WILL WORK ON THE STANDARDIZATION, CONNECTIVITY AND INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY RUN BY THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT COMMON BRAND FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.
7. WE WILL FOLLOW A CODE OF ETHICS TO SCALE UP STANDARD OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COOPERATIVE OPERATIONS
8. WE WILL INTEGRATE OTHER SERVICES THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT VENTURES IN:
 - HEALTH
 - PRODUCTION
 - MARKETING
9. WE WILL INTEGRATE THE ASSET/ INVESTMENT GROUP OF FEDERATIONS AND UTILIZE PORTION OF THE FUNDS TO ADVANCE A SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY.

Indeed, the road ahead will be long and tedious, the climb will be steep but we carry deep in our hearts a strong abiding faith that we will get there because the cooperatives are that beacon of light amidst the darkness of poverty as its DNA is members-owned, value-based and sustainable. Yes, where we are now is of no moment, where we are going is what is important.

It is the biblical faith found in Matthew 17:20 that, "If you have FAITH as small as a mustard seed, and if you tell a mountain to move from here to there, it will move."

Highly committed and inspired by that unwavering faith, we wholeheartedly hereunder affix our signatures this 17 day of June, 2014.