



Northern Luzon Coalition for Good Governance (NLCGG)

Challenges and Opportunities in Involving Citizens in Local Governance

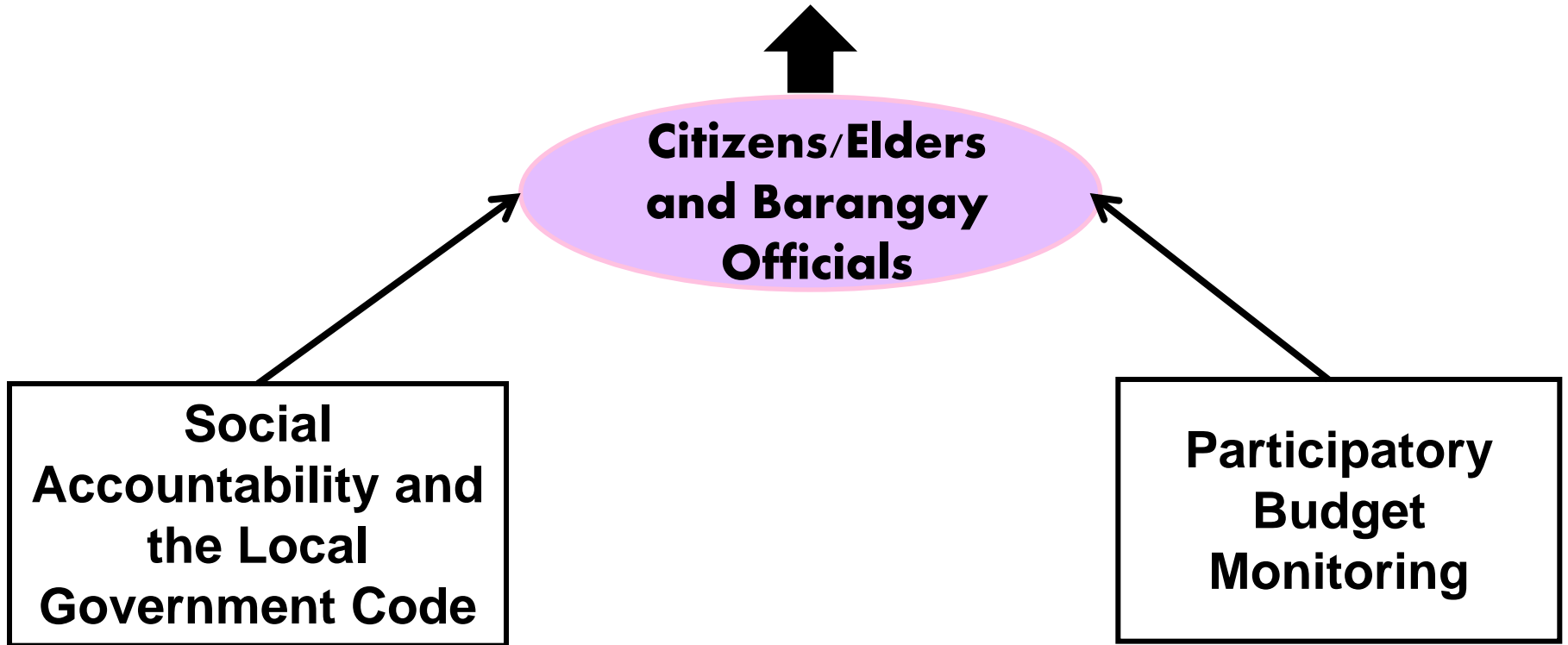
A Consultation with Government Champions
at the Barangay Level

**04 January 2012
Divine Word Retreat House, Baguio City**

Advancing responsible stewardship in governance ...

Context

**Strengthening citizen participation
in barangay governance**



Main Objective

To gather government champions at the barangay level and provide a venue for them to discuss strategies that would reinforce each other's efforts and gather greater support

Specific Objectives

Commit to (a) address the challenges in their areas and (b) solicit support from other elected officials at the barangay and municipal levels

Determine strategies to address the challenges

Identify the opportunities and challenges to ensure good governance and greater citizen participation and monitoring at the barangay and municipal levels

Level off on what is good governance

Flow

**LEVELING OFF: What is “Good Governance”?
What are the indicators of good governance?**

**WORKSHOP 1: Opportunities and Challenges
for Greater Citizen Participation (Good
Governance) at the barangay and Municipal
Levels**

**WORKSHOP 2: Strategies to Address the
Challenges**

**COMMITMENT BUILDING: Addressing the
Challenges**



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Synthesis

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What is **GOOD GOVERNANCE**?

A socially, customarily, and morally appropriate and legally accepted process of managing and self-determination, at the local and national levels

Characterized by transparent and just management of resources, accountability, commitment, people's participation and unity, political will, honesty

Towards (1) a harmonious environment for social and economic progress and development; and (2) better quality of life for all people, their communities, and the nation

OPPORTUNITIES

- Open and well-equipped Barangay Officials
- Venues/mechanisms for people's participation and inputs such as the Barangay Assembly, Barangay Consultations, Public Hearings, BDCs (in some areas), "Counterparting," Monitoring (e.g. Citizen's Report Card)
- Recognition of the Council of Elders (in IP communities) and their participation in efforts to protect the environment and resolve conflicts
- Government policies that ensure transparency and accountability

OPPORTUNITIES

- Partnerships with NGOs and private organizations
- Hiring of locals to work on barangay and municipal projects help ensure quality of outputs
- Call of the Government (e.g. CAR) to identify watersheds and forests in localities
- Existing local efforts to protect the environment
- Monitoring efforts of citizens

CHALLENGES

- Limited NGO and PO participation in barangay processes
- Delay in the processing and release of funds and “red tape” in government that delays delivery of services
- Non-compliance with the Procurement Law and connivance with contractors for barangay and municipal projects
- Inconsistent government agencies (NCIP and DENR)

CHALLENGES

- Land disputes that lead to confusion and disunity among tribes and clans
- Unregulated small-scale mining
- Limited efforts to protect watersheds

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

- Ensure, enhance, and maximize citizen participation and protecting public resources by:
 - ✓ Promoting civic mindedness among citizens and enhancing their capacity to participate in barangay processes (planning, budgeting, local legislation, monitoring, evaluation)
 - ✓ Involving people in all phases of the public management cycle (planning to evaluation)
 - ✓ Having purok leaders and sub-leaders
 - ✓ Maximizing barangay assemblies for citizens to learn ask about the affairs of the barangays
 - ✓ Holding sessions in different districts to enhance awareness of each district
 - ✓ Ensuring that BDCs and MDCs are functional and properly represented by legitimate POs and NGOs
 - ✓ Implementing tools for citizens to monitor and assess barangay performance
 - ✓ Disclosing audit and financial reports (as provided for by the LGC)

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

- Monitoring and lobbying Municipal Governments for the timely release of discretionary funds
- Increasing barangay revenues by:
 - Enforcement of fines on ordinances; and
 - Accessing funds from local and international agencies
- Convening the Council of Elders and strengthening of indigenous peoples' organizations that will protect the land, culture, resources, and environment (for indigenous communities, as provided for by the Indigenous People's Rights Act).
- Formation of Environmental Committees to address regulation of small scale mining and the protection of natural resources (for indigenous).
- Identification and protection of watersheds within the boundaries of our barangays.



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Commitment Building

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Leader: In this covenant, we pledge our commitment to advance responsible stewardship and good governance in our areas. We light these candles to brighten our paths as we face the challenges ahead.



Barangay Officials: We affix our signatures to this covenant as a symbol of our commitment to advance responsible stewardship and good governance in our areas.



PO Leaders: We affix our signatures to this covenant as a symbol of our commitment to advance responsible stewardship and good governance in our areas.



NLCGG Members: We affix our signatures to this covenant as a symbol of our commitment to advance responsible stewardship and good governance in our areas.



All: Let our signatures unite and strengthen us. Let the light continue to shine upon us as we walk the path towards good governance.

**Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay
para sa sarili lamang
Walang sinuman ang namamatay
para sa sarili lamang**

**Tayong lahat ay may pananagutan
sa isa't isa
Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Diyos na
kapiling nya.**



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