

COVENANT

between

Champion Barangay Officials in Northern Luzon and the Northern Luzon Coalition for Good Governance

We, the undersigned participants of the Consultation-Meeting on the Challenges and Opportunities of Involving Citizens in Local Governance held on 04 January 2012 at the Divine Word Retreat House, Baguio City, are barangay officials and active members of civil society groups and the Northern Luzon Coalition for Good Governance (NLCGG) who are striving to promote good governance by strengthening citizen-government partnership at the local level through joint monitoring of the local government management cycle and affairs.

We believe that good governance is *a socially, customarily, and morally appropriate and legally accepted process of managing resources and people at the local and national levels, geared towards social, political, and economic progress and development, self determination, and better quality of life for all people and their communities.* For good governance to work, there should be transparency, accountability, people's participation, commitment, political will, and honesty in governance; with the government officials and citizen groups constructively engaging each other in the process.

In our efforts to promote good governance, we are faced with the following challenges:

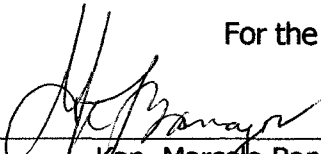
1. Limited participation of non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) in barangay processes due to (a) barangay officials who only solicit the participation their supporters and/or (b) lack of interest and sense of responsibility among citizens.
2. Delays in the release of funds for barangay operations and delays in the delivery of services due to the bureaucratic processes in government.
3. Non-compliance of Barangay and Municipal officials with the Procurement Law and connivance of some with Government Contractors.
4. Non-compliance of government agencies (e.g. DENR and NCIP) with government-mandated laws, policies, and processes.
5. Unregulated small-scale mining and threat of large-scale mining operations in upland areas that threaten the lives of the people and the environment.
6. Land disputes in indigenous communities leading to confusion and disunity among tribes and clans.
7. Limited or lack of efforts to protect local watersheds.

Collectively, we vow to address the foregoing challenges in our respective communities, as applicable, by:

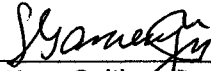
1. Ensuring, enhancing and maximizing citizen participation and protecting public resources by:
 - 1.1 Promoting civic mindedness among citizens and enhancing their capacity to participate in barangay processes (planning, budgeting, local legislation, monitoring, evaluation);
 - 1.2 Involving people in all phases of the public management cycle (planning, budgeting, procurement, implementation/expenditure tracking, ordinance formulation, evaluation and other venues specified in the Local Government Code);
 - 1.3 Having *purok* leaders and sub-leaders who will manage their districts;
 - 1.4 Maximizing barangay assemblies for citizens to learn and ask about the affairs of the barangays;
 - 1.5 Holding sessions in different districts to enhance awareness of each district;
 - 1.6 Ensuring that BDCs and MDCs are functional and properly represented by legitimate POs and NGOs;
 - 1.7 Implementing tools for citizens to monitor and assess barangay performance; and
 - 1.8 Disclosing audit and financial reports (as provided for by the LGC)
2. Vigilantly monitoring and lobbying for the timely release of funds from other government units/officials.
3. Increasing barangay revenues by:
 - 3.3 Enforcement of fines on ordinances; and
 - 3.4 Accessing funds from local and international agencies
4. 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).
5. Seek formation of Environmental Committees to address regulation of small scale mining and the protection of natural resources (for indigenous).
6. Identification and protection of watersheds within the boundaries of our barangays.

Signed on 04 January 2012 at the Divine Word Retreat House, Baguio City.

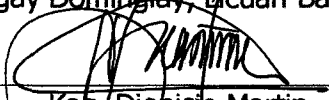
For the Government Champions at the Barangay Level:



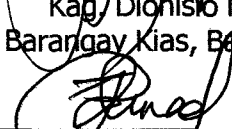
Kap. Marcelo Banayos
Barangay Banacao, Bangued, Abra



Kap. Sulibar Gamengan
Barangay Dominglay, Licuan-Baay, Abra




Kap. Dionisio Martin
Barangay Kias, Baguio City



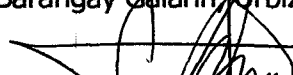
Kap. Fernando D. Plurad
Barangay San. Antonio, Bangued, Abra



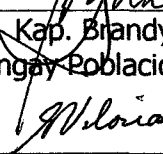
Kap. Ponciano Barney
Barangay Mogao, Licuan-Baay, Abra



Kap. Rodolfo A. Licuanan
Barangay Galarin, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan



Kap. Brandy Palisoc
Barangay Poblacion, Urbiztondo

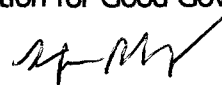


Kap. Editha Viloria
Barangay Villa Mercedes, San Quintin, Abra

For the Citizens' Groups and Members of the Northern Luzon Coalition for Good Governance:




Ruperto Banatao
Binongan Elders Association of Licuan-Baay
Ancestral Domain, Inc (BEALBADI)
Mogao, Licuan-Baay, Abra



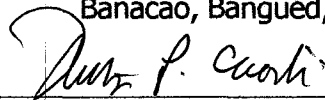
Franco Bonete
Banacao People's Association for Good
Governance
Banacao, Bangued, Abra

Nestor Tap-ayao

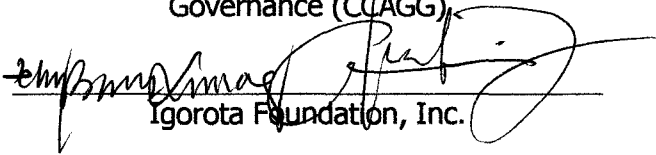
Elder, Barangay Ambassador, Tublay,
Benguet



Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good
Governance (CCAGG)



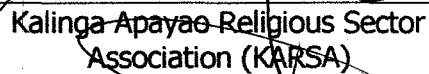
Community Volunteer Missioners (CVM)



Igorota Foundation, Inc.



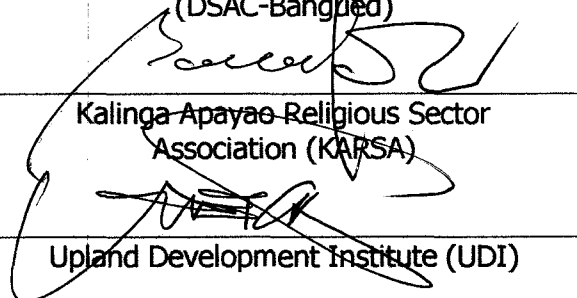
Diocesan Social Action Center of Bangued
(DSAC-Bangued)



Kalinga Apayao Religious Sector
Association (KARSA)



RECITE, Inc.



Upland Development Institute (UDI)



Social Action Center (SAC) of Ilagan