



KABATAANG BAYANI

Youth for HOPE

[Youth for Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections]

A FORMATION PROGRAM FOR THE YOUTH

Filipino Catholic youth are, in general, nationalistic in concept and practice; where social issues are concerned, they have grown more conscious. However, the action which concretely expresses this love for country, i.e. exercising their right to suffrage, is a least favored option.

Social awareness does not necessarily guarantee social involvement from our young people. Predominant among them is the feeling that whatever involvement they will get into will not make a difference.

Underlining these two realities from the National Filipino Catholic Youth Survey (NFCYS) 2002, and the challenges they present, the Episcopal Commission on Youth (ECY) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), together with the Bukal ng Tipan and the Social Action Team of the Federation of National Youth Organizations (FNYO), prepared this program – KABATAANG BAYANI.

*Because we believe in young people
and their tremendous capacity for goodness...*

Because with Jesus, they can transform the world...

Because they can be our heroes...

Because they are our heroes.

Rationale

In response to a resolution that the members of the National Youth Coordinating Council¹ (NYCC) 2001 presented, the ECY called all diocesan youth ministry offices to encourage the youth to pray for the May 2001 Elections through the activity “A Candle for HOPE”. The activity enjoined young people to light a candle at exactly 6:00 PM on the eve of the May 2001 Elections and pray for Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections. A good number of the ecclesiastical territories and national youth organizations confirmed that they held the activity in their places.

After a deep reflection on the essential role of the youth in the electoral process and in socio-political issues that affect the country, the ECY took a further step and prepared a program for the youth. It is aptly called **KABATAANG BAYANI: Youth for HOPE (Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections)**. This formation program aims to bring out the “hero” that is in each young person, believing that young people have the power to effect change, especially in our society, and that they are indeed our hope for a better world.

Aside from holding the prayer vigil, the ECY expanded the program to include a formation module, and an invitation for young people to be pro-active in the midst of socio-political issues.

All levels of youth ministry are enjoined to use and conduct this program.

Objectives

The formation program **Kabataang Bayani** aims to:

1. provide a venue for Filipino youth to become more aware of the country’s socio-political scene and make them realize their vital role in transforming the situation;
2. form them into conscientious citizens and inspire them to concretely express their love of country by participating actively and responsibly in the national and local elections; and
3. promote a simultaneous prayer on the eve of every national and local elections, where the youth, together with the members of their community – at home, among friends and peers, in the parish, diocese or organization, pray for honest, orderly and peaceful elections (HOPE).

¹ The Regional Youth Directors, Coordinators and Leaders along with representatives of the FNYO Coordinating Council, when convened, comprise the NYCC, which serves as the advisory body of the ECY.

Components

1. Formation Module: “Make It Happen”

A formation module that aims to instill in the minds of young people a deeper love for country and an awareness and appreciation of their ability to effect social transformation.

2. Re-Entry Component: “Make A Stand” (Concrete Political Action)

The re-entry session that invites and guides the youth to commit to a concrete political action from among possible ways of active participation in the electoral process in particular, and in social transformation in general.

3. Liturgy: “A Candle for HOPE”

The prayer component that provides for simultaneous prayer at exactly 6:00 PM on the eve of every national or local elections, adapted from the “A Candle for HOPE” held on the eve of the May 2001 Elections.

Time Element

The program unfolds in three parts, corresponding to the three components earlier mentioned.

1. The formation module “Make It Happen” is a half-day or full-day formation that must be held prior to an election.
2. The second component, “Make A Stand” (Concrete Action Plan), is initially intended as culminating activity of the formation module. But since the whole KB program hopes young people not only to be actively involved in the elections but also to become vigilant and conscientious citizens of the country, this component is supposed to evolve into a long-term project, possibly even a lifetime personal/collective endeavor. Thus, it may not be time bound. The contents presented here are guiding points toward this objective.
3. The liturgy for the prayer vigil “A Candle for HOPE” is held at 6:00 PM on the eve of every national or local elections. Local contexts may call for certain adjustments in the time or in the manner of celebration.

Characteristics of the Program

- Distinctly youthful, with its use of group dynamics, animation songs, etc.
- Simple, easy to follow, and adaptable to context and available resources.
- Not time-bound: This may be used as a program for youth prior to national or local elections.
- Calls for collaboration with other offices and agencies. For example, “Make A Stand” will be more effective if coordinated with other socio-political agencies or organizations, e.g. diocesan social action center, parish unit of the PPCRV, etc. Organizers of this program are encouraged to explore other initiatives where to lead the youth for their more aware and involved social participation.
- Appeals to youths’ idealism. The animation of this program and its components call for an idealistic touch. The organizers would do well to create an atmosphere which stresses and elicits idealism from the young through the use of youthful songs with idealistic themes, inputs and other strategies.

Participants

Having for this program a group of 20 participants is ideal, to allow for greater interaction and participation. But especially for the second and third components, there is no limit to the maximum number of participants.

Facilitators

A team of facilitators work together to organize the program. A Main Facilitator may be assigned to oversee the work of the team, supported by Assistant Facilitator/s who may take care of different parts.

In each group, a Group Facilitator is designated. He/She may be selected from among the participants in a group, or pre-assigned by the team of facilitators.

Facilitators’ Training

For an effective conduct of this program, it is important that the facilitators are trained – initially through a first-hand experience of the program and then, through a thorough familiarization of the program until desired competence is achieved.

Attachments

Clear copies of the handouts are attached. Layout was done in such manner as to be ready for photocopying or reproduction.

Resources

Groups that are concerned with political process and good governance

Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV)

Room 301, Pope Pius XII Catholic Center
1175 UN Avenue, Manila
+63 2 5215005 / 5242855

Local Units: all parishes

Episcopal Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace (ECSA-JP)

Ground Floor, CBCP Building
470 General Luna Street
1002 Intramuros, Manila
+63 2 5274163 / 5274144
www.nassa.org.ph

Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan

Loyola House of Studies
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights
1108 Quezon City
+63 2 4266101 local 3440 / 4265968
www.slb.ph

Local offices: Diocesan Social Action Centers (DSAC's) / Caritas Offices / Parish Social Action Ministries

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