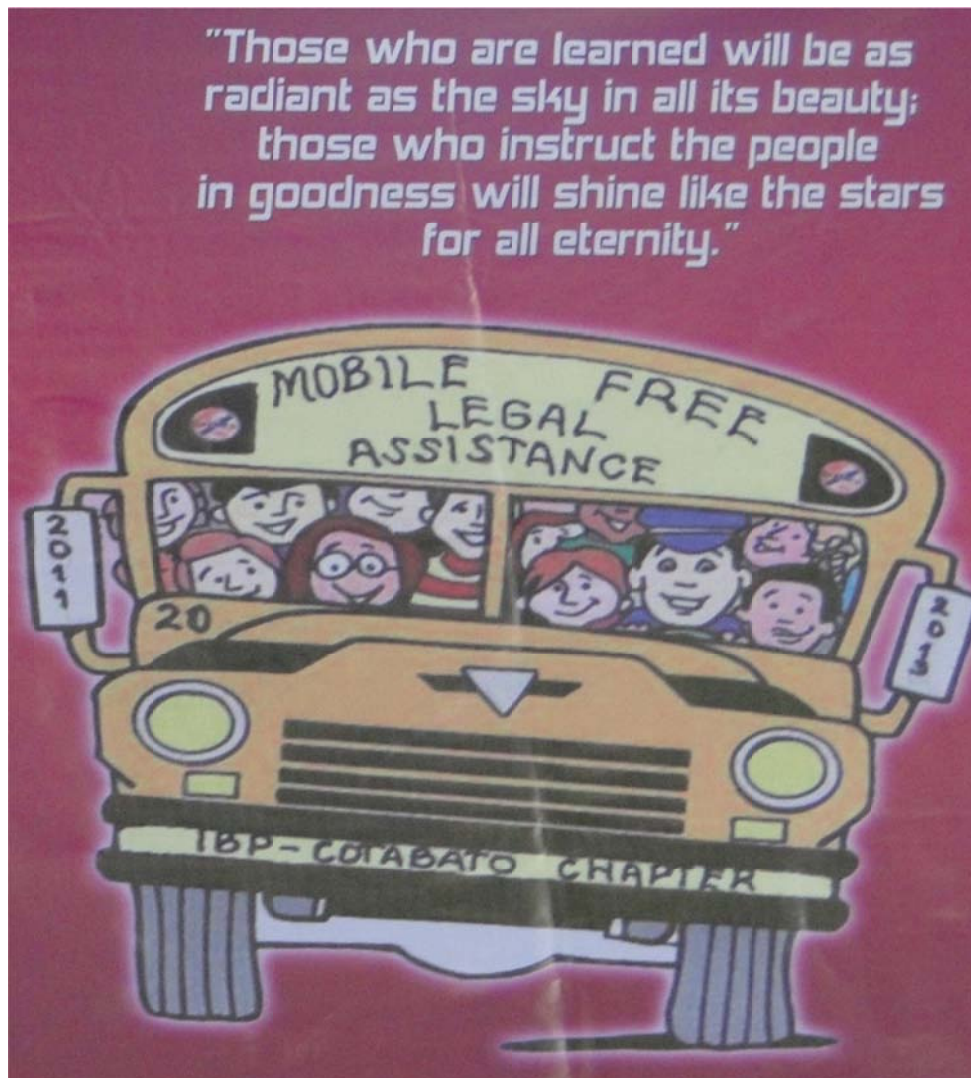


INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES COTABATO CHAPTER



2011-2013 PROGRAMS OF COMMITMENT

RATIONALE

(From Atty. Noel A. Ben, IBP-Cotabato Chapter President)

It is a recognized-fact that a significant number of individuals in our society, most especially indigents, do have legal concerns to attend to in an imperative nature and character, may it either be a petty legal matter or one that embraces a complex legal issue. It is likewise an accepted fact that greater fraction of these legally-confused-individuals, most often than not, just kept to themselves these mind-troubling-legal issues for they are likewise equally placed at lost by the intricacies of the law, and, above all, how to pay for the legal services they received, if they have sought one, taking into serious account their meager financial resources, if not at all their inability to pay. This matter-of-factly situation in legal relations, if it would not gain positive response from duty-holders, will bring a negative impact to the social balances that all stakeholders are steadfastly promoting for and protecting with since. Instructively, one basic law of nature tells us about life-interdependence, that sustainability equals to harmonious co-existence.

With due considerations of these facts-of-life in the field of legal relations, there is an equal necessity to establish an avenue for ready-legal-assistance that is free from the constraints of financial aspect, an avenue where an indigent-client is rest-assured that lawyers make themselves available for them so that in the end their legal concerns are properly addressed to in particular and allow themselves to become and remain as useful and fruitful members of our society in general.

Notably, Sec. 11, Article III, of our present Constitution, which provides: "Free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty" becomes an enshrining spirit of IBP-Cotabato Chapter to shape-up programs and empirically pursue the same in effect of ennobling all the more the ideals and thrusts of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for which reason and purpose the same has been established; hence, the introduction and implementation of the hereunder enumerated 2011-2013 Programs of Commitment of the IBP-Cotabato Chapter in the humblest way it can.

1. Mobile Free Legal Assistance Program (MFLAP):

The **Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Cotabato Chapter**, in the intensification of its program to render free legal services to our fellow men and women, who are less in life, VOWS to introduce its unprecedented and one of a kind SOCIAL-RESPONSIBILITY mechanism dubbed as "**MOBILE FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**".

Through this program, the IBP-Cotabato Chapter Members, as their humble yet firm and positive response to that mandate, both constitutional and statutory, that is to provide a ready avenue for free legal services, move into the different localities in the Province of Maguindanao as well as to the different barangays of Cotabato City to extend legal services at no cost to all its indigent-residents emboldened by the Chapter's theme of service: ***"Those who are learned will be as radiant as the sky in all its beauty; those who instruct the people in goodness will shine like the stars for all eternity"***.

Note: The IBP-Cotabato Chapter MFLAP was launched on **16 April 2011 in Upi, Maguindanao** (a mountainous area of the province), where success empirically shaped-up itself by the great number of clients the Chapter Members attended to. The experience of radiating warmth of goodness significantly brought inspirations to the birthing of the following IBP Programs and maximization of the existing ones such as: IBP-Sangay ng Cotabato Handang Maglingkod Sa Mamamayan Program; IBP-Cotabato Chapter Lakbay-Pagkakaisa with NGOs and POs Tungo sa Mapayapang Pamayanan Program; IBP-Cotabato Chapter Inter-Agency Development Program; IBP-Cotabato Chapter Community Capability Development Program; Pasalamat Kay Inang Kalikasan: An IBP-Cotabato Chapter Environmental Care Program; and IBP-Cotabato Chapter Inter-Personal Wellness Program.





"Those who are learned will be as radiant as the sky in all its beauty; those who instruct the people in goodness will shine like the stars for all eternity".



A symbolic transmission of Certificate of Appreciation from IBP-Cotabato Chapter President, Atty. Noel A. Ben, to the Mayor of Upi, Mag., Hon. Ramon Piang, Sr., through a child.

Its a simple message: "Kung ang mga nakakatandang mamamayan ng bawat pamayanan ay magkatuwang sa pagsulong ng mga programang pangkaunlaran, magandang kinabukasan ay tiyak na makakamtam ng mga umuusbong kabataan" – Atty. Noel A. Ben



FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE: OUR PASTORAL CARE!



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NOTE: MFLAP was likewise conducted in Brgys. Kalanganan Mother and RH 8, both of Cotabato City, on April 20 and 30, 2011, respectively. On June 13-15, 2011, MFLAP was held in People's Palace, Cotabato City, in line with the Araw ng Cotabato Celebration; Likewise, on 29 June 2011, in line with the PNP-ARMM Oplan Gabay Project, the MFLAP was conducted in Camp Gen. SK Pendatun, Parang, Maguindanao. For more photos, please visit us in our Facebook Account: [Ibp Cotabato Chapter](#).

IN THE KNOW: As of 30 June 2011, reckon from the date of assumption into office of the New Set of Officers, or on April 1, 2011, the IBP-Cotabato Chapter, through its MFLAP Program, has rendered pro bono legal services, which is a combination of counseling and documentations, to 702 individuals, greater fraction of which comes from the constituents of Upi, Maguindanao.

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2. IBP-Sangay ng Cotabato Handang Maglingkod Sa Mamamayan Program:

The **IBP-Cotabato Chapter Office**, which is located at the Hall of Justice Bldg., ORG-ARMM Complex, Gov. Gutierrez Avenue, City of Cotabato, no longer stands as structure for administrative concerns only.

Every Monday and Wednesday, an IBP-Member (on rotational basis) is assigned to render free legal services to any walk-in clients. For Friday Session, a lawyer (likewise on rotational basis) is stationed therein to specifically focus on the legal needs and concerns of women and children alone, add also the legal need of OFWs, most of whom are women. The IBP Office likewise entertains on-call legal inquiries, which is channeled through the lawyer-of-the-day.



NOTE: As of 30 June 2011, reckon from the date of assumption into office of the New Set of Officers, or on April 1, 2011, the IBP-Cotabato Chapter, through the Handang Maglingkod sa Mamamayan Program, has rendered free legal consultations to 61 walk-in clients, 12 on-call legal inquiries, and 6 legal representations in court.

3. IBP-Cotabato Chapter Lakbay-Pagkakaisa Kasama ang mga NGOs and POs Tungo sa Mapayapang Bayan Program:

The **IBP-Cotabato Chapter**, under the sound principle of coordination and collaboration, shares its programs, more particularly its MFLAP, with NGOs and POs operating in the City of Cotabato as well as in the Province of Maguindanao, under great belief that if all acts of goodness are concertedly delivered the magnitude of benefits is certainly obtainable by the people. Also in this program that the Chapter acts as convenor with the same NGOs and POs with the end in view of strengthening partnerships so that delivery of services becomes productive in an exponential way. Notably, the Chapter extends whole support to the religious institutions that which includes Prison Ministry as part of their pastoral works.



(A half-day seminar-workshop conducted by the IBP-Cotabato Chapter, on preparations of basic legal documents/instruments to the NDU-College of Law Students, who are IBP Cotabato Chapter volunteers, on 19 April 2011, at IBP Office, Hall of Justice Bldg., ORG-ARMM Complex, Cotabato City)



(A Roundtable Discussion between the IBP-Cotabato Chapter President, Atty. Noel A. Ben, with the respective officer of Mindanao People Peace Power Movement, KAAGAPAY-OFW, and Mindanao Tri-People Women Resource Center, held at MPPM Office, Brgy. Bagua, Cotabato City, on 3 June 2011)



Meeting with the Religious Sisters of Missionary of Christ Jesus and their lay Volunteers, to whom the IBP President made the Chapter's whole-hearted support to their Prison Ministry as part of their pastoral works. (10 June 2011)



The IBP Cotabato Chapter participates in consultative meeting/forum on the postponement of ARMM-2011 Election. It maintains its position on the rule of the law. (10 June 2011, afternoon, Estosan Garden Hotel, Cot. City)

4. IBP-Cotabato Chapter Inter-Agency Development Program:

The IBP-Cotabato Chapter, firmly holding under the same sound principle of coordination and collaboration, reaches out its programs with the Government Line-Agencies so that it makes itself as their effective partner in obtaining transparency, accountability, and good governance in the public service. It is through this program that the Chapter shares its competence in legal relations in parallelism with that mandate: public office is a public trust.



The IBP-Cotabato Chapter, true to its ideals and commitment, participates as impartial observer in the bidding process. The National Food Authority as end-user. In this photo, IBP-Cotabato Chapter President, Atty. Noel A. Ben, is asked on some significant provisions of Republic Act 9184, or known as The Government Procurement Reform Act, vis a vis the peculiarities of the circumstances thus surrounding the procuring entity and/or end-user. (May 6 and 18, 2011; June 5 and June 23, 2011)



Standing firm to its commitment, the IBP-Cotabato Chapter conducts its Inter-Agency Development Program once more with BFAR-ARMM. Atty. Christina Haw Tay-Jovero talks on R.A. 9262, or known as Anti-Violence Against Women And Their Children Act. (May 16, 2011)



IBP-President, Atty. Noel A. Ben, on the other hand, talks about Philosophy of Man, particularly on (Wo)Man as a loving being vis a vis the essence of every loving encounter in parallelism with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9262.

5. IBP-Cotabato Chapter Community Capability Development Program:

The **IBP-Cotabato Chapter** owes an obligation, in view of its knowledge in the field of law, to hone a community under the rule of law. Through this program, the Chapter empowers the community and assists the members thereof in realizing their economic, socially-oriented, environmental, or cultural projects always in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law. By this means, the Chapter Members promote social justice in the humblest way they can with the people whom they co-exist.



The IBP-Cotabato Chapter allows itself to become an instrument in the humblest way it can for the community members of the Christian-Muslim Association of Kalanganan Mother Barangay, Cotabato City, in building their mission and vision within the framework of social justice. (May 14, 2011)

6. IBP-Cotabato Chapter Environmental Care Program:

As being guided by the nation's state policy on ecology, specifically Sec. 16, Art. II of our present Constitution, which provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature", the **IBP-Cotabato Chapter** vows to initiate and implement, either as a sole duty-bearer or in coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders, environmental care project of activities that will primordially enhance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology spearheads environmental care programs that will primordially enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology.



The IBP-Cotabato Chapter will hold a tree planting activity at Dimapatoy Water Shed, located at the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Province of Maguindanao, come this month of September, 2011 to meaningfully start the chapter's celebration of National Law Week.

7. IBP-Cotabato Chapter Inter-Personal Wellness Program:

The **IBP-Cotabato Chapter** is totally aware that authentic development of the community verily starts from one's self rooted in good values. The strong adherence to morality is always, for sure, a maintenance of genuine personal integrity. Through this program, the members of the Chapter periodically gather themselves together through socials, academic, sports and continuously consider each other's presence as effective partners in elevating the standards of legal profession as well as of becoming always an effective channel of truth, justice, and peace in their dealings, both individual and collective.

The officers of the Chapter hold their regular meeting every last Friday of the month, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, IBP Office, Hall of Justice Bldg., ORG-ARMM Complex, Gov. Gutierrez Avenue, Cotabato City. On the other hand, a General Assembly Meeting is likewise held every last Saturday of the last month of every quarter, the details under prior notice.



(Fellowship and/or Fraternal Breakfast at IBP Office, Hall of Justice Bldg., ORG-ARMM Complex, Cotabato City, hosted by the New Set of Officers)



IBP-Cotabato Chapter launches its BookShop and Souvenir items.(5/9/11)



The IBP-Cotabato Chapter sponsors a Holy Eucharistic Celebration



Chapter President, Atty. Noel A. Ben participates in IBP Gov for WestMin Election held on May 7, 2011, in Marawi City, Lanao Del Sur.



Atty. Noel A. Ben updates the Chapter Members on the accomplishments covering the 1st Quarter (April-June, 2011) of his incumbency.

It is of our belief that the continuation of the above-enumerated Programs of Commitment will essentially benefit our poor people upon whom we are bound to deliver free legal services.

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ATTY. NOEL A. BEN
President, IBP-Cotabato Chapter

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