

The paralegal coordinators listing and giving details on the different forms of police brutality

POLICE BRUTALITY Ronnel June 15

BHong Ocampo 06/15/03 GUERNA

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SUMMARY EXECUTION FOR SYNDICATE CASES

SALYAGING

RUSSIAN ROULET - ZERO PHYSICAL PAIN & KARINGAL

SINUSUPOT NG PLASTIC ANG ULO: + + + + + ALL STN.

PUSH-UP POSITION NA MAY BASO SA BAGO. + + + + + KARINGAL

PARA PUNMIN NG PAWIS.

BAG RAPE CASES BY PINAPALO ANG KANIGANG + + + + +

ARI O KAYA BY PINAPATAKAN NG KANIGANG + + + + +

KINAKARKENTE. ALL STATION

HITTING YOUR FIVE FINGER + + + + + ALL STN.

DINAPASOK SA LOOB NG DRUM SABAY HATAW SA DRUM + + + + +

BALER STN. 2

ELECTRIC SHOCK - + + + + + ALL STN.

ABATIBA - + + + + + NBI / CRAME / KARINGAL / PROCTF

INISILIHAN - RUB IN THE BODY - + + + + + STN. 3 / ALL

WATER CURE - COVERING YOUR FACE U / SOAK TOWEL - + + + + + ALL

DROPPING WATER IN YOUR FOREHEAD - + + + + + ALL

BULLET IN BETWEEN THE FINGER - + + + + + ALL

MOVING YOUR FINGER NAIL - + + + + + NBI / CRAME

INAKYATSA REHAS SABAY HATAW NA BISE ALL BAT + + + + +

INAGASOK ANG DALIRI SA SUBET NG BALA - + + + + + ALL

NBI / CRAME / PROCTF

PRA activities number 3

PRA activities number 4

Listing and rating the reasons for torture in the police precincts

Methodology

The participants were asked to share the reasons why there is torture in the police precincts. They were also asked why the inmates themselves were involved in the act of torturing. They also shared the mechanisms they developed in order to avoid torture.

A group leader wrote down the answers and reported their findings. Other inmates who are looking at the activity also shared some of their observations.

Mga dahilan ng Pananakit sa Presinto The Reasons of torture in the police precincts

Mga Dahilan Reasons	Sino ang gumagawa Who does the torture	Gaano kadalas na dahilan ng pananakit How often is this the reason for torture	Bilang Rank
Paraan para umamin sa kaso To extract confession	Pulis (police)	00000 5	5
Katuwaan o trip (For the sheer joy of it) a. Lowbatt (the effect of drugs is expiring) b. Lasing (Drunk) c. Walang kita (if no kick back)	Pulis at preso (Police and prisoner)	0000000 7	3
Pag tiryado ng pulis If an inmate earns the ire of a police	Pulis (Police)	000 3	6
Parusa sa pabalik-balik na nahuhuli Punishment for recidivists	Pulis (Police)	000 3	6
Utos ng pulis Command from the police	Preso (Prisoner)	0000000 7	3
Hindi tamang pagsagot sa pulis Disrespect in answering a police officer	Pulis (Police)	00 2	7
Utos ng complainant Command of the complainant	Pulis at preso (Police and prisoner)	000000 6	4
Ayaw ibigay ang gamit If an inmate does not want to give his things	Pulis at preso (Police and prisoner)	00000000 8	2
Pumapalag sa kapwa preso Fights with his fellow inmates	Preso (Prisoner)	00 2	7
Nahirapan sa paghuli The police is hard up in catching the inmate	Pulis (Police)	000000000 9	1

Kapag kamag-anak ng pulis ang complainant If the police is a relative of the complainant	Pulis at preso (Police and prisoner)	00000	5	5
Para makakuha ng impormasyon (To gather information on the case) a. Mastermind b. Epektos (Goods) c. Financier d. Kasama (accomplice)	Pulis at preso (Police and prisoner)	0000000	6	4
Walang nakuhang ebidensya If the police did not recover the evidence	Pulis (Police)	00000000	7	3

According to the paralegal coordinators, there are four reasons of torture in the police precincts. These include:

1. Case related
 - a. To extract confession 5 points
 - b. To gather information regarding the mastermind, the place where the goods were placed and the accomplice to the case 6 points

Total 11 points
2. Money related
 - a. Command of the complaint in exchange of money 6 points
 - b. To get the things of the suspect 8 points
 - c. To recover the evidence (the police can have it afterwards) 7 points

Total 21 points
3. Personal reasons
 - a. Trip 7 points
 - b. If the suspect earns the ire of the police officer 3 points
 - c. The police is hard up in catching the suspect 9 points
 - d. If the police is a relative of the complainant 5 points

Total 24 points
4. Form of punishment
 - a. Punishment for recidivists 3 points
 - b. Disrespect in answering the police officer 3 points

Total 6 points

According to the paralegal coordinators, the number one reason for torture in the police precincts is purely personal. This is especially true if the police had a hard time catching up a suspect. “*Pinahirapan mo ko talaga mahuli ka ha, yari ka ngayon.*” This usually happens among snatchers who had already been cornered but still try to go around.

Also, there are police officers who inflict pain on those suspects of a particular crime. For example, there are police officers who are angry with rape cases and thus inflict pain on the man's genitalia. There are those who are angry at snatching and thus prick the suspects' hands and cripple their feet.

However, the paralegal coordinators clarified that the kind of pain usually inflicted with these reasons are minimal. It only takes a few hours.

The second most prevalent reason for exacting torture is money. At the behest of the complainant, the police exact punishment to the suspect. This especially true among homicide cases where the family of the victims are reeling for justice. This is made more complicated especially if the victim of the suspect is a relative of the police officer. Also, on other instances, the police will subject the suspects to torture so that the suspects may be terrified. Then freedom may be dangled. The suspects may submit to settling the case.

The third reason, and which is a popular belief, is that police officers engage in inflicting pain in order to force suspects into confessions. When suspects are tortured for these reasons, it is expected that the procedure will last longer and be more painful. According to the paralegal coordinators, this could last more than a week. The suspect is brought first to a hide out and he is not released until the confession is made.

The fourth reason is torture as a form of punishment. According to the paralegals, some police officers are punishing the inmates *para sila ay magtanda* or so that they may learn. This especially happens among recidivists who had been a mainstay of the police precinct. "*Nandito ka na naman!*" or "you are here again!"

Some paralegal coordinators admitted that in their stay in the precincts, they were also a party to the torture of their fellow inmates. These were for the following reasons:

1. Trip or for the sheer joy of inflicting pain to a newly committed inmate
2. They are commanded by the police officer
3. If they are asked by the complainant of the suspect
4. If the inmates do not give their things
5. If the newly committed inmates fight back
6. If the complainant is a relative of the police
7. To gather information on the case

Inmates agree that it is a struggle to be in the police precincts. This is especially among non-gang affiliated and *bagito* (first time to be committed) inmates. Like in the city jails, there are also *mayor* of the cell. However, the rules are less defined in the precincts.

For an inmate to put away himself from harm, he must affiliate with the dominant gang in the said station. For example, if the *mayor* of the cell is a member of the Sputnik, an inmate will be better off if he is also affiliated with Sputnik.

However, a *mayor* should not harm an inmate who is already a member of a gang, especially a gang mate or *kosa* even if the police officer so commands. For a

nangungulangan or someone who knows jail rules, that is strictly prohibited. Should both of them be committed in the city jail, the erring party will definitely be penalized. (This is one of the reasons of inter-gang conflict).

In the police precincts alone, the inmates without gangs are courted to join a gang. Promise of protection should they be transferred in the city jail is the number one come on. Tales of rape and murders are peddled to scare the *bagito* and force them to join the gang. Those who remain unaffiliated or *Querna* are the easy subjects of the torture in the precincts. (See related PRA activities among members of the Pangkat)

PRA activities number 5
Solutions to police brutality

Methodology

After the discussions and sharings on the mechanics of torture in the police precincts, the paralegal coordinators were asked to share their opinions on how to lessen the incidents of abuses. They listed the answers and rated according to the level of implementation and urgency. A group leader reported the answers and subject to questioning by other members. Then they finalized the report.

Result:

MGA HAKBANG PARA MAIWASAN ANG MGA PANANAKIT SA PRESINTO
Proposals to prohibit abuses in the police precincts

Proposal	Level of implementation	Level of urgency
Human rights representative in every precinct	X	Very urgent
May mga dumadalaw sa presinto na NGO's NGO visitations in every precinct	X	Very urgent
Maging mulat sa mga karapatang pantao Human rights awareness	#	Urgent
Magkaroon ng agarang abogado Immediate presence of a lawyer - mayaman (rich) - mahirap (poor)	/ X	Very urgent
Malaman agad ng pamilya ang kalagayan ng nakapiit Immediately inform the relatives on the conditions of the inmates	/	Very urgent
Dapat mabantayan ng may-malasakit na tao sa kapwa sa 24 oras The newly arrested suspect must be guarded by a concerned citizen for 24 hours	X	Urgent
Ipatupad ng station commander ang mga human rights na bawat nakapiit The station commander recognize the rights of the accused	XX	Very very very urgent
Media campaign		

Legend:

- X = hindi pa ginagawa (not yet done)
- XX = hinding-hindi pa ginagawa (very remote to be done)
- / = ginagawa na (it is being done)
- # = nagsisimula na (it is gaining ground)

According to the paralegal coordinators, they consider it very very very urgent that the Police station commanders should order their police officers do away with torture among the inmates. They said that they themselves would not like to commit violence against their fellow inmates (*kasi pare-pareho tayong preso*) because we are all prisoners, but because of the orders coming from the police, they are sometimes forced to

do it. The paralegal coordinators said that it is within the powers of the police station commanders to implement such. However, at the moment, they see that this is far from implementation. (XX) "*Sakit na yata yan ng police*" or it is a kind of affliction to the police, an inmate said.

The paralegal coordinators also classified the following as very urgent:

1. Human Rights representative in every precinct
2. NGO's visitation in every precinct
3. Immediate presence of lawyer
4. Immediately inform relatives

The common theme for this urgency is that the paralegal coordinators believe that if outsiders visit the police precincts, especially those who have authority to prohibit the abuses like the Commission on Human Rights, then the malpractices can be reduced. They propose that the visitations be made institutional and regular.

As it is, the paralegal coordinators believe that the visitations are not yet implemented. Though they knew that the Commission on Human Rights does have visitorial rights, they have not seen one. They pray that the CHR employees will visit more often.

The lawyers of more affluent suspects can immediately make a visitation, however, the less affluent ones cannot. Most of the inmates acquire lawyers only when the cases are already in court. The less affluent inmates meet their lawyers for the first time during arraignment. By that time, most inmates had already confessed to their alleged crimes. They also underwent inquest proceedings and preliminary investigations without a lawyer. Worse, the paralegal coordinators reported that the suspects were not allowed to air their side during inquest proceedings. So even if they were subjected to torture, they cannot make that appear on record.

Most of the inmates would like to file a complaint of physical abuses against the police officers. But then, as long as they are in the police stations, they will be too afraid to do it. When they are transferred to the Quezon City Jail and confer with their court appointed lawyers, that will only be the time that they can muster enough courage to reveal their ordeal. But by that time, their wounds had already healed and can no longer produce a medical certification that shall effect the said ordeal. Also, the police officers had already prepared to that eventuality: shortly before they tortured the suspects, the police officers first acquire a medical certificate proclaiming that the suspect is physically fit. That will prove that they did not do anything inimical to the interest of the suspects.

The paralegal coordinators also believe that the media has a role to play in the prohibition of abuses in the police precincts.

One, they observed that the media had also been a party to the abuses. The media would encourage inmates to hit other inmates, or complainants banging the heads of

suspects, just so to get a glimpse of “jail life.” The more violent the shootages, the more sensationalize are the stories that they portray.

Two, the media also cast a stereotype image of the jails as places of the “patapon ang buhay” and as havens of riots and gang wars. According to the paralegal coordinators, this is also the reason why they are very afraid when they are committed in the jails. It is this fear factor that eventually made them allow the abuses of their fellow inmates and police officers. It is only when they already acquainted themselves with their surroundings and knew the other persons in jail that they realized many of the stories about jails are exaggeration and without basis. “*Pare-pareho lang din ang aming kalagayan at wala kaming ipinagkaiba sa kanila,*” an affluent and good looking inmate said thinking that he will be raped inside the jail. “*Di nangyayari ang rape.*” That never happened.

They plead to the media practitioners that they be critical in their reporting.

The paralegal coordinators listing and rating of the ways to reduce the torture in the police precincts

MGA HAKBANG PARA MAIWASAN ANG MGA PANANAKIT SA PRECINCTO

1) ~~X~~ HUMAN RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE IN EVERY PRECINCT V-URGENT

2) MAY MGA DUMADALAY SA PRECINCTO NA NGO'S V-URGENT

3) ~~##~~ MAGING MULAT SA KARAPATAKANG PAN-TAO URGENT

4) ~~WAG~~ KARDON NG AGARANG ABOGADO V-URGENT
~~- MAYMAYAN X - MALIBIT~~

5) ~~MALAMAN~~ AGAD NG PAMILYA ANG KALAGAYAN NG ISANG NA-PIIT V-URGENT

6) ~~DAPAT~~ MABANTAYAN NG MAY-MALASAKIT HA TAO SA KAPVA 24 ORAS URGENT

7) ~~KIPATUPAD~~ NG STATION CMDR. ANG MGA ~~HUMAN RIGHTS~~ NG BAWAT NAKA-PIIT

8) MEDIA COMPANY V. V. URGENT

HOWARD - 22 YRS ~~OLD~~ GINA-GAWA NGHINI KULANG PA

LEGEND
 X - HINDI PA GINA-GAWA
 X X - HINDI PA GINA-GAWA TALAGA ✓ - GINA-GAWA NA

JOKER
 42 yrs.
 EDZ (32)
 3/18/06

PRA activities number 5

PRA activities number 6:
Probing on reasons for the delay of cases

Methodology:

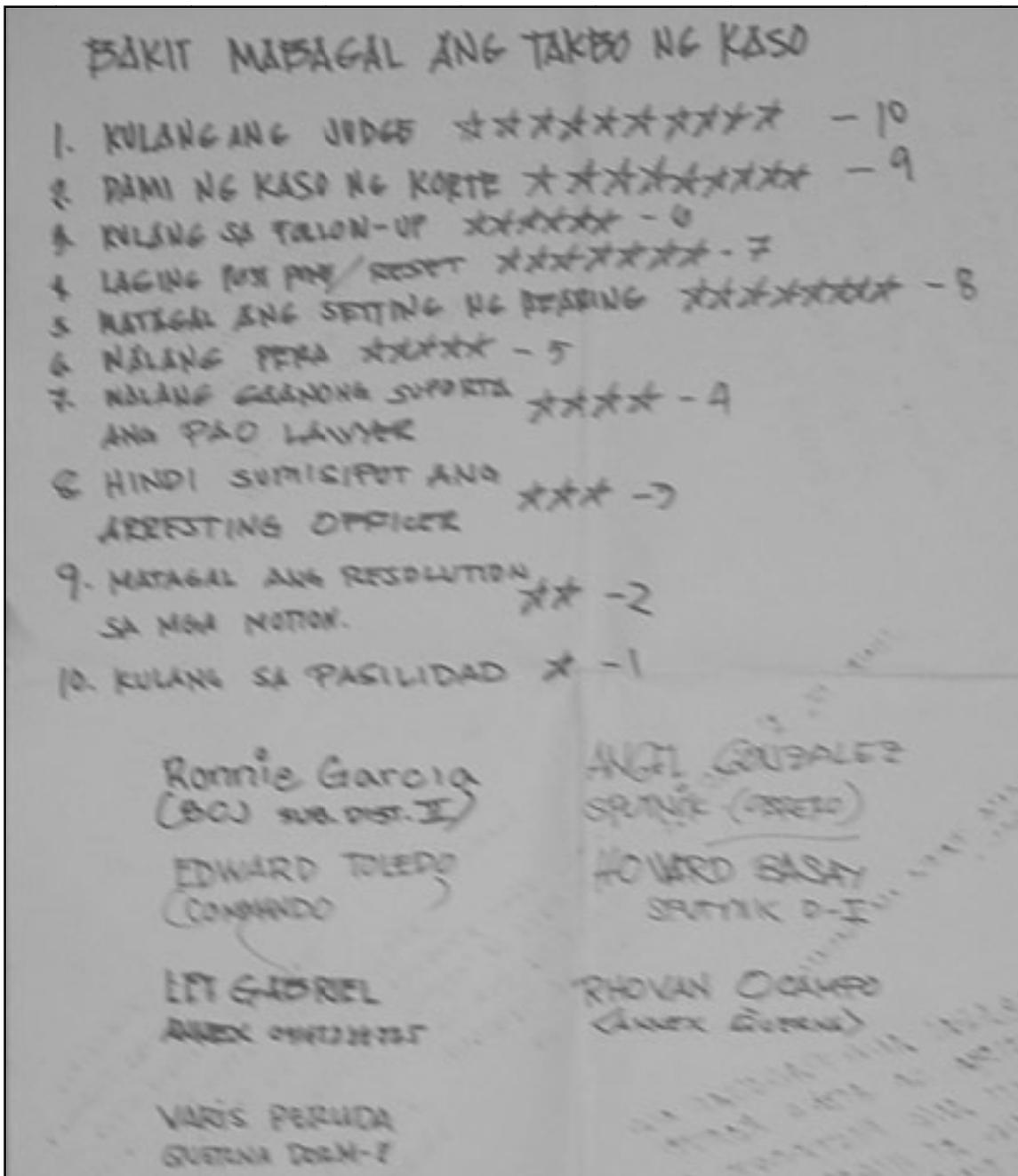
The paralegal coordinators had identified the slow judicial work as one of the two main problems of inmates on their legal conditions. Now they were asked to share, based from their own experiences, why their cases run slowly. Then they rated, which among these reasons are the primary ones.

Results:

BAKIT MABAGAL ANG TAKBO NG KASO
Why the case runs slowly

Reasons	How prevalent
Kulang ang judge Lack of judges	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ = 10
Dami ng kaso ng korte Too many case in the court	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ = 9
Kulang sa follow-up Lack of follow-up	♣♣♣♣♣♣ = 6
Laging postponed o reset Hearings are always postponed or reset	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ = 7
Matagal ang setting ng hearing The setting of hearings are far apart	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ = 8
Walang pera The inmate has no money	♣♣♣♣♣ = 5
Walang gaanong suporta ang PAO LAWYER No sufficient support from the PAO LAWYER	♣♣♣♣ = 4
Hindi sumisipot ang arresting officer The arresting officers do not appear	♣♣♣ = 3
Matagal ang resolution ng mga hukom Slow disposition of resolutions	♣♣ = 2
Kulang sa pasilidad Lack of facilities	♣ = 1

Legend: ♣ pinakamadalas na dahilan



The paralegal coordinators listing and rating the reasons for the delay of the cases (PRA activities number 6)

Corollary PRA activities for inmates with long over due cases

After the paralegal coordinators have identified the reasons why cases took a long time to be decided upon, they suggested that it would be best if inmates who had been staying in jail for quite a period of time be the ones to share their experiences. As such, they gathered inmates who had been staying in jail for the past five or more years.

Corollary PRA activities 1

Describing the situation of inmates who had stayed in jail for a long period of time

Methodology:

The participants were asked to describe their situations and why their cases took that long. They were given a cartolina and pentel to write their answers. Then the participants read their answers to the group.

Results:

“Ako si Rogelio Tagupa. Ang dahilan siguro ng pagtatagal ng aking kaso ay ang pagpapalit ng judge. Isa pa ang paghintay ng desisyon na napakatagal kahit na may desistance o retractment ang complainant. Ang kaso ko ay nape-pending pa. Dahil sa ang sabi ng piskal ay dahil wala daw siyang alam pag pina-follow up mismo ng kapatid ng complainant ko para makalabas na ako. Isa pa daw dahilan na marami kami nagpa-follow up ng kaso na maski na alam na nila ay parang hindi pansin ng korte.”

I am Rogelio Tagupa. The reason perhaps for the delay in my case is the change in the judge handling the case. Also, the court takes time to decide even if there is already a desistance or retraction of statement from the complainant. The case is still pending. The fiscal says he doesn't know anything every time the sister of my complainant follows up the case. Also, even if there are already many of them following up my case, the court seems not to give any attention.

“Ako si Felix Banisa. Ang kaso ko ay 6425. Ako ay nahatulan na subalit humabol ang aking arresting kaya nalipat ako sa ibang court. Umapila kami sa court of appeals ngunit natalo kami kaya sa Supreme Court kami ulit umapila. Ito na ang hinihintay naming desisyon.”

I am Felix Banisa. My case is Violation of Republic Act 6425 (the Old Dangerous Drugs Act) I was found guilty by the lower court. But my arresting officer contested the decision of the court. (He testified in our behalf). We appealed in the Court of Appeals but we lost. Now, we are appealing in the in the Supreme Court and it is what we are waiting.

“Ako si Danilo Arrojo ng Annex Building. Ang dahilan po ng bakit nagtagal ang aming kaso sa RTC ay sa paliwanag ng aming judge na marami silang hawak na kaso lalo na sa family court. Kaya nagtagal ay dahil kahit na maliliit na kaso ay napupunta sa kanila.”

I am Danilo Arrojo of Annex Building. The reason why my case dragged in court is based on the explanation of our judge who said that they handle a lot of cases in the family court. Even small cases (meaning not heinous crime cases) go to them.

Ako ay si Ernesto Soledad may kasong murder. Nakulong ako noong June 21, 1995. Sa pagsulat kong ito ay nakakulong pa rin. Tumagal ang aking kaso sa kadahilanang:

1. Ang pagpalit-palit ng hukom. Panglima ngayon ang judge kong humawak sa aking kaso
2. Ang pagpalit-palit ng piskal. Pangatlo ang piskal na humahawak sa kaso ko ngayon
3. Ang pagpalit-palit ng abogado, pang-anim na ngayon ang abogado na humahawak sa aking kaso
4. Matagal na pagtalaga ng mga tao sa kanilang katungkulan
5. Inaabot minsan ng 1½ buwan o lampas pa ang pagbibigay ng hearing
6. Pag nagkaroon ng hearing, pagdating sa korte pinopostpone naman

I am Ernesto Soledad with a case of murder. I was detained on June 21, 1995. The moment I am writing this I am still in jail. My case drag this long due to the following:

1. **Change in the judge handling my case. This is the fifth judge who handled my case.**
2. **Change in the fiscal or prosecutor handling my case. This is the third fiscal who handles my case.**
3. **Change in the lawyer handling my case. This is the sixth lawyer for me.**
4. **The delay of appointing persons to replace the vacated positions.**
5. **The hearings are set every 1½ months and longer.**
6. **And even if there are hearings, when I go to the court it is postponed.**

“Ako pala si Felizardo Dantes na taga District 2 Batang City Jail. Kaya tumagal ang aking kaso ay dahil sa palipat-lipat ako ng judge. At bukod doon, nasa America ang atorni ko at palagi napo-potpone. Biro mo, 1999 pa natapos ang kaso ko na hanggang ngayon ay wala pa rin akong tawag. Dapat ay babasahan na lang ako. At saka pala pinapalakad ko naman pero sabi sa korte wala pa raw yung papel ko. At ang balak ko sana ay magpalit ako ng atorni. Salamat.”

I am Felizardo Dantes of District 2 Batang City Jail. The reason my case dragged this long is because of transfer of my case to different judges. Aside from that, my lawyer is in America and the case is postponed every now and then. Imagine, my case was submitted for decision in 1999 and up until now, the court has not called me. I am due for reading of the decision. I also let my relatives follow up my case but until, my paper is not ready. I plan to change my lawyer. Thank you.

“Ako si Demetrio Montina District 2 Batang City Jail-main. Ang naging kadahilan po ng pagtatagal ng kaso ko o bakit ako tumagal dito ay: una, walang hearing, pangalawa ay napalitan ang judge, pangatlo ay walang nag-aasikaso, pang-apat, promulgation na ako 7 years na ako, 5 years naghihintay ng promulgation. Ang hinihiling ko lang po sana ay magkaroon na ako ng promulgation. Maraming salamat.”

I am Demetrio Montina of District 2 Batang City Jail-main. The reason of the delay in my case is, first, no hearing, second, change in judge, third, no one is following up

my case, fourth my promulgation is five years in the making. My request is that they set my promulgation.

“Ako po si Ignacio B. Porras. Ang kaso ko ay rape at ang kaso ko ay noon pang November 28, 1994. Ang tinatanong ay kung bakit ako nagtagal. Ang unang judge ko ay si Judge Valencia. Siya po ay namatay noon 1998. At nailipat ako sa Branch 221 kay Judge Tijam at nailipat naman ako kay Judge Pizaro at ang sabi isasalang ako ulit dahil nawala ang mga transcript. Kailangan masalang ako ulit. At re-taking ito ng aking testimonya. Sa huli kong hearing ay sinalang ulit ako. At ang hiling ko sana ay matapos na ngayong taon na ito ang aking kaso. Salamat.

I am Ignacio Porras. My case is rape and it started way back November 28, 1994. The reason my case dragged this long is because the first judge handling my case, judge Valencia died in 1998. My case was transferred to Branch 221 Judge Tijam. And then it was transferred to Judge Pizzaro. (Judge Tijam was promoted to the Court Of Appeals). They told me that I have to retake the witness stand because my transcript of records was missing. I wish my case will be finished this year.

“Ako po si Domingo Viva. Ako ay may kasong rape. Ako na siguro ang pinakamatagal na nakatira rito sa buong city jail. Magsa-sampung taon na ako rito. Limang taon rito ay naghintay ako ng promulgation. Dito na ako nagbinata at tumanda. Hindi ko na alam ang hitsura ng laya. Yung judge ko kasi natanggal sa position nung patapos na. Tapos, na promote naman yung pumalit. Tapos na promote ulit. Binabasa daw ng bago ko judge ang aking kaso. Pagod na ako maghintay. Gusto ko na umuwi sa bahay namin. Para niyo nang awa.

I am Domingo Viva. I have a rape case. Perhaps I am the longest resident inmate in the city jail. I have stayed here for almost 10 years. Five years was for waiting promulgation. I spent my youth here. I do no longer have an idea of the free world. My judge was removed from position. Then the one who handled my case was promoted. Then another judge again was promoted. The new judge is reading my case. I am already tired waiting. I want to go home. Have mercy on me.

From the sharing of the participants, it appears that the reasons for the delay of the cases are varied. In order to triangulate the answers given by the paralegal coordinators, they also did a rating on which among the stated factors are most common of delay of the cases of the inmates.

AKO SI FELIX BANISA KASO 6425
 DEBY NAKATULAN NA SABALITHOMABOL
 ANG BILING ARRESTING, KAYAT NALIPAT
 AKO SA IBANG COURT ANOPILA KAMI
 SA COURT OF APPEALS HGAHIT NATALO
 KAMI, KAYA SA SUPREME COURT
 ULI AMAPILA. ITO HABANG
 BIBIHINTAY NAMIA DISISION

Sharing of Felix Banisa

AKO PALA SI FELIZARDO DANTES TIGA DISTRICT
 KAYA TUMAGAL ANG KASO KO DAHIL SA
 PALIPAT LIPAT AKO NG (JUDGE) AT BUKOD
 DON. NASA AMERICA ANG ATHORNE KO
~~PAKITA~~ AT PALAGI RIN NAPOSPON BIRO
 MO 1999 PA NATAPOS ANG KASO KO HANG
 GANG NGADON WALA PARIN AKONG TAWAG
 DAPAT BABASAHAN NALANG AKO AT SAKA
 PALA PINALALAKAD KUNAMIAN PERO ANG
 SABI SA KORTE WALA PARAW YUNG
 PAPEL KO AT ANG BALAKKO SANA
 KAHIT NA MAG PALIT AKO NG ATHORNE

Sharing of Felizardo Dantes

AKO SI IGNACIO B. PORRAS
 KASO KO SI RAPE AT ANAKKO
 KO NOV 28, 1977 ANG TITANONG KUNG
 BAKIT NAGTAGAL ANG UNANG JUDGE
 SA SI VALINIA NAMATAY 1978
 AT NAILAPAT AKO SA BRC. ULI KAY
 TIGAY - AT NA ILIPAT NAMAN AKO
 KAY JUDGE PIZARO AT ANG SABI
 SA SALANG ULIT AMI DAHIL NAWALA
 BONO MGA TRANSKIP KAILANGAN MASA
 ANG ULIT AMI RITING ITO ANG HUGI
 KUNG HIRING DINILANG ULIT AKO
~~ANG HINILING~~ ANG HINILING
 KO SA NA NATAPOS NA
 TUNG TAON SALAMAT

Sharing of Ignacio Porras

AKO SI ERNESTO SOLEDAD MAY KASO NG MURDER. NAKALAKA NG JUNE 1995 ANG BANG
 SA PALIPAT KO HITO AY NAGKALAKA SA BAW. TUMAGAL AKO KASO SA KORTEN (JUDGE),
 DHA:
 1. ANG PALIPAT PALIT SA HUKOM, TALA LING ANG HUKOM KO HANGI NA HEMANANG SA
 KASO KO.
 2. ANG PALIPAT PALIT SA PISICAL, PANGALAN NG PISICAL NA HEMANANG SA KASO KO
 SA HANGI.
 3. ANG PALIPAT PALIT SA HUKOM, TALA LING ANG HUKOM KO HANGI NA HEMANANG SA
 SA KASO KO.
 4. ANG PALIPAT PALIT SA HUKOM, TALA LING ANG HUKOM KO HANGI NA HEMANANG SA
 SA KASO KO.
 5. ANG PALIPAT PALIT SA HUKOM, TALA LING ANG HUKOM KO HANGI NA HEMANANG SA
 SA KASO KO.
 6. ANG PALIPAT PALIT SA HUKOM, TALA LING ANG HUKOM KO HANGI NA HEMANANG SA
 SA KASO KO.

Sharing of Ernesto Soledad

Corollary Activity number 2

Listing and rating the reasons for delay

Methodology

The participants were asked to list all the reasons why cases are delayed. Afterwards, they were asked to rate the reasons based on prevalence of its recurrence. Then they ranked which among the stated the reasons are the most common one. They discussed and shared opinions until they made a final output.

Dahilan bakit tumatagal ang kaso
Why the cases are delayed

Reasons	Prevalence	Points
Walang judge o papalit palit ng judge No judge or numerous transfer of case to different judges	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	5
Walang abogado No lawyer	☹ ☹ ☹	3
Hindi sumisipot sa hearing ang complainant The complainant do not attend hearings	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	5
Walang piskal No fiscal or prosecutor	☹ ☹ ☹	3
Walang arresting officer No arresting officer	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	5
Matagal ang hearing/postponed Settings of hearing are too far apart/ postponed	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	10
Walang witness o nagpapahanap ng witness No witness or in search of witnesses	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	6
Matagal ang promulgation Long Scheduling of promulgation	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	10
Matagal ang desisyon sa motion Long time in deciding motions	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	4
Walang coordination ang bjmp at court No coordination between BJMP and court	☹ ☹	2
Takot magdesisyon ang judge dahil sa public opinion Judges are afraid to make a decision on due to public opinion	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	6
Tumatagal ang kakapalit ng judge It takes a lot of time for a judge to be replaced	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	4
Walang pera pambayad sa abogado No money to pay the lawyers	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	6
Walang tumutulong na kamag-anak sa nakakulong, nasa malayong lugar No family members to follow up the cases because they come from far away places	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	10

Based on the discussions of the paralegal coordinators and inmates who had been staying in jail for a minimum of five years, the common reasons for the delay of cases:

1. Lack of judicial personnel
 - a. Lack of judges
 - b. Lack of prosecutors
 - c. Lack of lawyers

According to the inmates, many of the cases are frozen every time one of the lead actors are out. They could be out when:

- a. They are promoted
- b. They suddenly died
- c. They were barred from service or suspended
- d. They were on leave
 - i. Due to illness
 - ii. Due to vacation

The inmates reported that every time a judge is promoted, that translates to a minimum of five months of no trial. This is made worse, if suddenly the judge handling the case dies. The new judge will only have the transcript as the basis for making a decision. A death of a judge translates to at least eight months of frozen cases. There are many inmates who had changed judges for three to four times in a row. That could easily translate to two years of waiting without the case even progressing.

Same is true when lawyers suddenly withdrew from the cases. This is especially true among inmates who initially employed the services of private lawyers but after staying in jail for a long period of time, all their resources had been dried up. Now they have to employ public lawyers who will be reading the case anew.

2. Delayed setting of hearings
 - a. Hearings are set far apart
 - b. Court hearings are postponed

The inmate reported that they are having hearings for an average of one in every two months. Some inmates even reported that with the advent of the RA 9165 or the new Dangerous Drugs Act, they are now having a hearing of once every four months. This is so as many calendar dates had been fully occupied.

However, many of these hearings are even postponed. Just the mere absence of one of the actors in the hearings, say the witnesses, the hearings will be reset for another two to four months.

The following are the most common reasons of postponement:

- i. The judge, prosecutor, lawyers are sick or absent.
- ii. The witnesses were absent because they did not receive the notice for hearing
- iii. There is no more time left since the first scheduled case took a lot of time
- iv. The scheduled date of hearing is proclaimed a holiday (The government move the dates of holidays too late in the day)
- v. There is a typhoon
- vi. When there are security concerns in the jail like riot and noise barrage.

These little reasons pile up and then without noticing it, the inmates had been staying in jail for long periods of time.

Also, according to the inmates, it takes a long time for the court to decide on the cases. Most of the inmates knew that the courts, in a span of 90 days, must decide upon a case. However, this is rarely followed. Most of the cases are decided upon in a span of 6 months to one year. Worse there are cases that are due for promulgation for already five years. This is especially true on cases that had already been submitted for decision then the judge handling the case suddenly passed away.

3. Intentional delays
 - a. No arresting officers

The arresting officers intentionally do not attend the hearings. Since they knew that the cases will be provisionally dismissed only after three consecutive absences, they attend only the third hearing. The first two will be postponed. Then they will absent themselves again for two hearings then attend the third. And so on. So practically in three hearings, only one will push through.

- b. No complainant-witnesses

Same is true for complainant-witness. The witnesses will only attend the hearing after the third call.

By the time the prosecution presented the following:

1. Arresting officers (6 hearings, four postponed, two push through) for a total of one year and two months)
2. The eye witness (3 hearings, 2 postponed, one push through) for a total of 6 months
3. Corroborating witness (3 hearings, 2 postponed, one push through) for a total of six months
4. Medico-legal (3 hearings, 2 postponed, one push through) for a total of six months

It already took more two years for the presentation of prosecution evidence just for four witnesses alone. This does not include the presentation of defense evidence and the resolution of the cases.

4. Financial reasons
 - a. No money to pay a private lawyer
 - b. No money to follow up the case

The inmates also reported that one of the reasons of the delay of the cases is the dire financial restraint. There were times that the private lawyers suddenly ask for a postponement of trial upon knowing that the inmate cannot give the promised lawyers' fees. They also said that they couldn't afford the amount of the transcript of stenographic notes that cost P10.00 per page. (Most of the inmates do not know that the transcript can be requested for free.) Also, most of the inmates have relatives coming from the provinces and they cannot even spend transportation expenses, much more, spend on the follow up of cases.

5. Administrative Reasons

The inmates complain that the BJMP and the courts do not have coordination. There are periods when the inmates knew that they have a hearing in the court, but they were

not brought there. This is because the subpoena that requires the presence of the inmate may not have been transmitted from the court to the jail. There were periods when an inmate had already been officially released by the judge, but the release paper was not transmitted to the jail. There were also instances when an inmate had been committed to the Quezon City Jail but in the court's records, the inmate is still in another detention area, such that the subpoena was sent elsewhere.

There are also bureaucratic inefficiencies. Many times the hearings of the inmates cannot push through because the van or the bus that transport the inmates from the jail to the courts had been in a poor condition. Also, due to the lack of escort personnel and handcuffs, the inmates had to wait for available escorts. Sometimes, they go to the court late in the morning, such that the hearing had already been reset for the next two months.

6. Political Reasons

The inmates also believed that some of the judges are afraid to make their decisions, especially if these are highly sensitive cases. The inmates felt that if the judge will acquit them, the public may have a negative reaction on the decision. This is especially through on cases that are favorite of the media like drugs, kidnapping, rape, and other sensationalized cases.

There are some inmates who also shared a growing concern over the fact that many judges are promoted to higher positions after they have decided favorably on cases that are clamored for conviction by the public. They fear that they judges ride on the issue to get promoted at their expense and not on the merits of their cases.

The inmates listing and rating the reasons for the delay of the cases

- DAHILAN BASIKIT TUMUTALONG AUG 2010
1. WALANG JUDGE O PA PAUT NA KAKASBIT ~~*****~~ - 5
 2. PAUT NA JUDGE ON LEAVE / SUSPENDED
WALANG ^{RETRAPOL} ABOGADO / promoted ~~***~~ - 3
 3. WALANG COMPLAINT
HULOG SUBANSIPOT SA HEADLINE ~~*****~~ - 5
 4. WALANG PUSKAL / promoted ~~***~~ - 3
 5. WALANG ANRESTING ~~*****~~ - 5
 6. MATAGAL ANG HEARING / POSTIVE ~~*****~~
 7. ~~WALANG~~ WALANG WITNESS
O NA GAPAHALAP NA WITNESS ~~*****~~ - 6
 8. MATAGAL NA PROMULGATION ~~*****~~ - 10
 9. MATAGAL NA DESISYON SA
MOTION / BUL DEMANDA ~~***~~ - 4
 10. WALANG COORDINATION NA ^{BIMP} SA COURT ~~***~~ - 2
 11. TIGAT NA DESISYON ANG JUDGE O PUBLIC OPINYON ~~*****~~
 12. TUMATAGAL NA PAUT NA JUDGE ~~****~~ - 4
 13. KULANG SA PENA PUNYAYO SA KASAGRO ~~*****~~ - 6
 14. WALANG TUMUTALONG SA
KAKA KALONG. ~~*****~~
KARAMIHAN WALANG ~~*****~~
UMAKIKASONG KAMAG-KIAK NA
KASA MALALAYONG LUGAR.

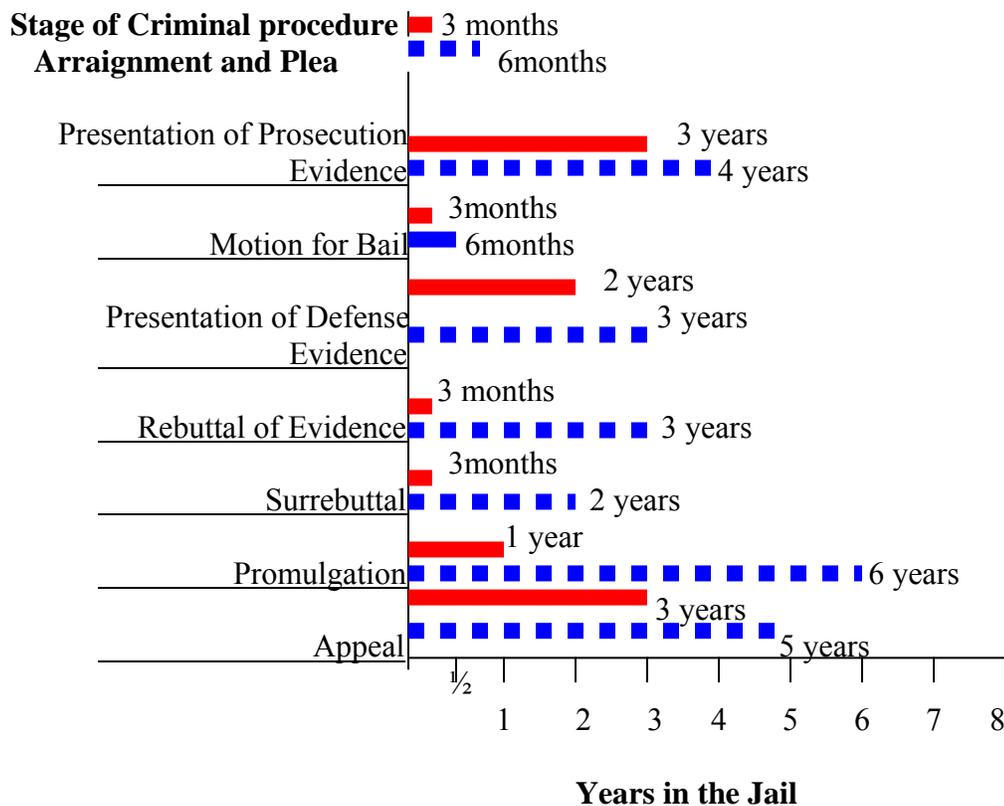
Corollary PRA activities number 2

Corollary PRA activities number 3
Timeline of a criminal procedure

Methodology

The participants were asked to state the different stages of criminal trial that they underwent. Then they were asked to share how long did each of them take to finish a particular stage. Then they estimated an average (put in red straight line) and the longest recorded period (put in blue dotted lines) in every stage.

Results:



The inmates knew of the specific stages of criminal trial only when they are already in jail. Many admit that it is their first time to hear such strange words are arraignment, which they know to be “arrangement” and promulgation. They learn the different stages of the trial mostly from their fellow inmates and sometimes from the jail officers. Also, they hear of “probation” and “parole” which they could opt to apply through the seminars conducted in jail.

The average length of days before an arraignment and plea in court is administered among the inmates who stayed in jail for five years and above is three months. There are

inmates whose arraignment was set after six months. According to the participants, the reasons for delay in the arraignment and plea are:

1. The PAO Lawyer has not yet read the charges against the accused since it the first time that the accused and lawyer meet face to face. The PAO lawyer asks for time. This is especially true if the accused originally signified his intention to employ the services of a private lawyer but on the hearing dates, the said private lawyer do not appear. The court appoints the designated PAO lawyer in the court branch to be the counsel de officio.
2. The complainant did not arrive. Most of the inmates said that the hearings during arraignment do not push through when the complaining victim is not present.

A simple postponement in the arraignment may mean an extension of three months. Some of the petty cases where inmates are involved like simple theft with little amounts involve, for example, stealing a pair of slippers, have penalties of six months or less. But due to the difficulty of including an inmate to the daily calendar of scheduled hearings and the postponement of hearings, an inmate overstays in jail. There are times that an inmate had already stayed in jail for two years but the maximum possible penalty is six months. When the PAO lawyer finally finds this out, according to the inmates, they would advise their clients to plead guilty or *aminin na lang*. The inmate could be released at once, provided that the judge will give the lowest penalty or plea-bargaining.

After the arraignment and plea, the participants knew that the prosecution will be presenting their pieces of evidence. The average length of the presentation of prosecution evidence was estimated to be an average of three years. A participant admitted that it took four years for the prosecution to present their evidence. The common cause of delay during this period were identified by the participants to be:

1. The absence of the arresting officers, chemist (for drug related cases) and medico legal officers during hearing
2. The absence of witnesses
3. The change in judge, prosecutor and lawyer handling the case
4. The long gap between the hearings

The inmates complain that those who do not have someone to follow up their cases, for making simple "*pangungulit o sundot*" in the court are the ones who are in a disadvantage. After two years or so, the inmates fear that their cases had been "*natabunan*" or buried by the papers of the latecomers. Accordingly, when their cases are still fresh, they have hearings at least once a month. As the time goes by, they have hearings only once in every three months. And if still longer, only twice a year.

There are participants whose lawyers filed a motion for bail. However most of the participants did not. It is interesting to note here that many inmates do not know of their rights to file a motion for bail. They did not know that right after arraignment, their lawyers could file a motion for bail in order to have bail hearing. Most of the inmates

were not apprised of their rights to motion for bail after the prosecution presented its evidence. What they knew is that since they are no-bail, then they just have to simply finish the case.

For inmates who filed a motion for bail, the average length of time before it was decided upon is three months. However, there was one who stayed for as long as 6 months.

The presentation of the defense evidence also takes an equally long time. The average is 2 years, while others take as long as three years. This is surprising since it is the accused who dictates the tempo of the presentation of the evidence. The following are the reasons cited by the inmates:

1. Difficulty in producing witnesses

Many inmates said that due to the length of time they stayed in jail, many of the witnesses for them had already transferred to other area of residence, worked abroad or already died. This substantially curtails their right as an accused to present evidence in their behalf. In a bid to locate the witnesses, the defense lawyers asked for more hearing dates, only to be postponed again later.

Also, since the accused are not allowed to go out of jail in order to gather pieces of evidence for them or to secure the testimonies of witnesses, come hearing day, the scheduled witnesses fail to attend the hearing. The relatives of the accused already plead to the witnesses but still that is not an assurance that they will appear in the hearings. Many times, their lawyers ask for a postponement.

2. No more money to pay private lawyers

There are some inmates who went bankrupt due to the trial. After staying in jail for a couple of years, all their resources had been dried up. Finally they can no longer provide for the services of a private lawyer. The private lawyer officially withdraws from the case and the burden is transferred to the PAO lawyers.

The rebuttal and surrebuttal stage are not common among the inmates. This stage is commonly resorted among cases which have private prosecutors and private defense lawyers. Accordingly, the average lengths of rebuttal and surrebuttal are three months. A participant however claimed that it took him three years for the rebuttal and another two years for the surrebuttal. The reason cited was that the judge handling his case died and it has to be transferred to another judge.

The longest period identified by the participants is in the promulgation. The average period is one year. However, there were some inmates who had stayed in jail for nine years, five of which are spent on waiting the decision of the court. The most commonly cited for a delay in the promulgation are:

1. Promotion or Death of the judge handling the case

Once a judge is promoted, all the cases that the judge is handling will be delegated to the new judge. However, if the case is due for promulgation, the new judge has to read all the documents and testimonies earlier presented. The points of the previous judge may guide the new judge, however, the new judge is not bound by the decisions of the previous judge. The new judge is given the free reign to decide. This translates to years of re-reading.

However, it becomes worse if the judge handling the cases suddenly dies. Now, the new judge will not receive some pointers to consider by the previous judge.

It has been a common prayer of the inmates therefore that their judge be given a good health and that their judge will not be promoted soon

2. Difficulty of coming up with a decision

According to the participants, the judges admit to them that they should bear with the judge if he cannot decide on the cases that fast. This is because, the judge would not want to err in making a decision. There are a lot of cases due for promulgation in the court. The inmates said they perfectly understand their judge.

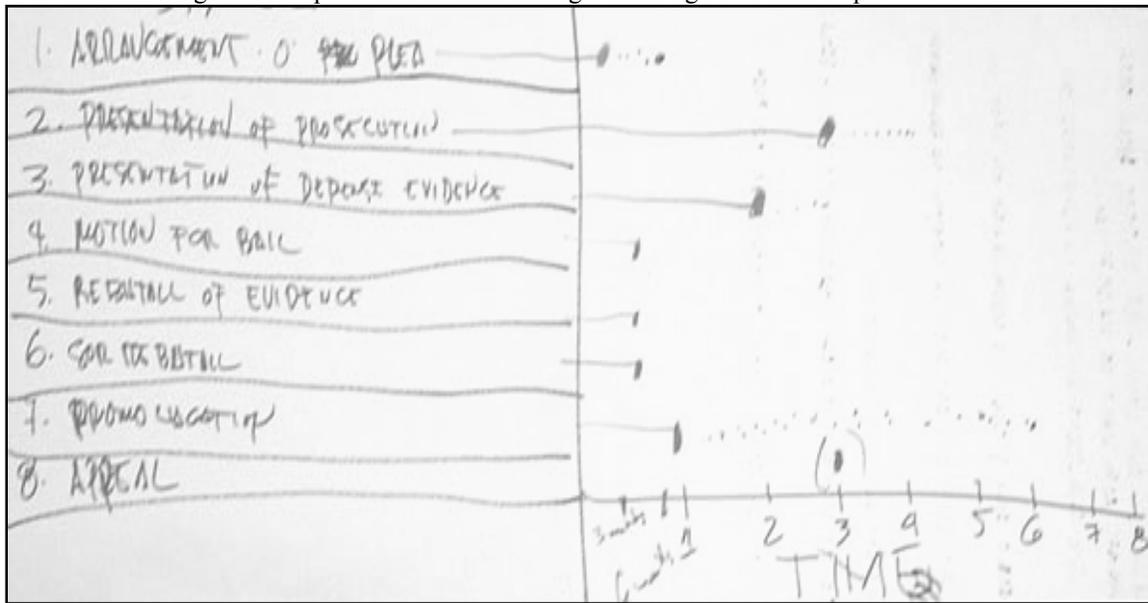
3. Fortuitous circumstances

The inmates also complain of fortuitous circumstances working against them. For example, there were cases when a court sala was suddenly ravaged by fire such that all the documents in the case were destroyed. Also, there were instances when a case is transferred to another court but in the process of the transferring, the transcript of stenographic notes was lost. They have to start to square one even if they are already in the promulgation stage.

There are inmates who appealed the decisions of the court to higher courts in one of the contested decisions, like a decision denying a Petition for Bail. While on appeal, the lower court, which is presiding the case, temporarily shelves the hearings until a decision is made.

The average period of appeal among the participants is three years. But there are inmates who are waiting for their appeal for as long as five years. The conditions of the inmates on appeal are more difficult since they do not have a hearing. They just wait for the decisions to reach them. Once the higher courts reach a decision, only then will the hearings resume.

The inmates listing the court procedure and estimating the average time in each procedure



PRA activities number 3

Corollary PRA activities number 4

Finding solutions to the problems on the delay of cases

Methodology:

The participants were asked to share their proposals to improve the plight of the inmates in the jail concerning their cases. In particular, they were asked that if given the chance to talk to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Secretary of the Department of Justice, what would their appeal be? They formed a group and discussed among themselves. Then they listed their answers. Afterwards, one of the participants read their answers.

Result:

Mga mungkahi para mapabilis ang takbo ng kaso Proposals on how to facilitate the speedy disposition of cases

1. Dapat 90 days lang ang promulgation
Promulgation should be set within a 90 day period

The participants knew that cases must be decided within 45 days for simple cases and at the most 90 days for heinous crime cases. However, this is rarely followed. There must be a way to compel the judge to make decisions soonest. According to the inmates, they would rather know if they are palaya (to be freed) or palayo (to be convicted) than to be miserable in waiting what the outcome would be.

2. Dapat, pagkatapos ng arraignment, hearing agad
Hearings must be set soon after the arraignment
3. Dapat walang postpone
There should be no postponement of hearings
4. Pabilisin ang hearing
There must be speedy hearings

The participants request that hearings should be done at least weekly. Also, the laxity in the postponement of hearings must be done away with. This can be done if the court can impose penalties for those who willfully delay the cases like arresting police officers who attend only on the third hearings.

5. Dapat may judge dito sa Quezon City Jail na ang tinututukan lamang ay ang mga nakakulong
There must be designated judge in the Quezon City Jail whose prime consideration are the detained accused.
6. Dagdagan ang korte, judge, piskal.
There should be additional courts, judges and fiscal.

There must be special courts that will attend only to detained accused. As it is, the courts also handle civil cases and criminal cases whose accused had been out of bail. Though the detained accused are theoretically given priority over other cases, still the voluminous number of cases handled by a judge can only permit the hearings in at most once a month.

As such, the inmates are asking for more judges, fiscals and PAO lawyers to hear their cases. As it is, there are many as 1000 cases on the average that a court handles. This include the civil and criminal cases. According to the inmates, even if the judge schedules hearings everyday, inclusive of Saturdays and Sundays, still they could not attend to all their cases.

If there are more judges, fiscals and PAO lawyers, then much attention will be accorded in each case. This will definitely increase the chance of having the right decisions in the cases.

7. Dapat madismis agad ang kaso pag walang complainant
The cases should be dismissed immediately if the complainants do not attend the hearings
8. Wag ipaamin ang kaso
The accused should not be forced to accept guilt
9. Bago ipaamin ang kaso, sabihin agad kung ilang ang sentensiya
Before an accused pleads guilty, he must be properly appraised on the terms of sentencing

The inmates asked that their procedural rights must be observed and respected. They claim that they have entitlements under the law, unfortunately, they only knew these very late in the day. A participant related that for past five hearings in the start of the case, not a single piece of evidence was presented against him. During that time, he did not know that he could have move for a dismissal of the case. He also never had the chance to confer with his lawyer. It was only during a seminar in the jail did he learn that for three consecutive hearings postponed, his case should be provisionally dismissed. On the sixth hearing, it was then that he relayed the case to his PAO lawyer. His lawyer moved for a dismissal of the case. However, on that particular hearing the complainant did attend. The case went on a full-blown trial. The case is not on its fifth year.

Also, the inmate requests that PAO lawyers should refrain from the practice of “PAO Paamin”. This are resorted to by some PAO lawyers who feel that their clients are truly guilty of the crimes charged against them. Instead of undergoing a full-blown trial, they induce their clients to plead guilty for a lower offense and thus could be given a lower penalty. There are times that inmates were told that if they plead guilty to the offense charge, the sentence will be the minimum sentence and that it could qualify for probation. Probation is one of the means to be released from jail. When the inmates already plead guilty, however, they are shocked to learn that they were not able to qualify for probation. Now, they will rot in jail. They felt betrayed by their PAO lawyers.

There are time too that PAO lawyers advise their clients to plead guilty even if the accused are not truly guilty because the case may take longer if is being fought. For example, PD 1602 or the Anti-gambling act, the case most commonly filed among tricycle drivers who play *cara y cruz* in the street walk, is punishable with a penalty of 6 months to two years. The PAO lawyers would rather “persuade” his clients to plead guilty and take six months rather fight till the case is finished. For most of the inmates, this becomes a practical way out.

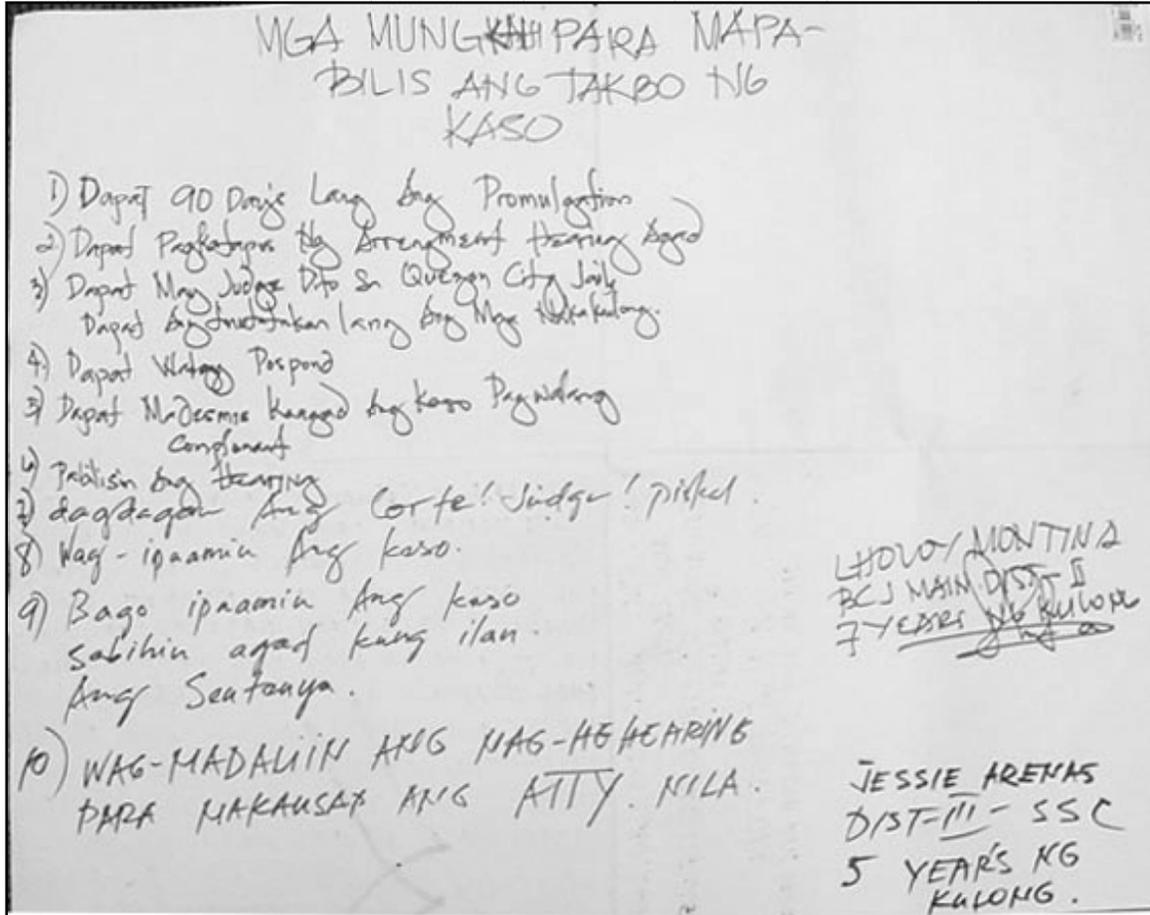
10. Wag madaliin ang mga naghi-hearing para makausap nila ang abogado nila

The inmates should be given a chance to talk to their lawyers after the hearing.

This is a call for reforms in the BJMP. Accordingly, most of the inmates would like to talk to their lawyers during the hearings. Unfortunately, they are brought to court with handcuffs. Worse, due to the scarcity of handcuffs, their hands are tied to another inmate. Also, since there would only be one jail guard keeping an eye on them inside the court room, the inmates are ordered to just stay in the corner of the court and to sit down. They are not allowed to move around as this will constitute security risk. Even if the court is already in session, and the accused are entitled to have their handcuffs removed, still the jail guards won't remove it. (This is unless being requested by the lawyers of the accused. Most private lawyers request it, the PAO lawyers don't. An unequal treatment since the more affluent accused do not have handcuffs while the less affluent ones had handcuffs.)

By the time the hearing is over, the inmates wish to talk to their lawyers and confer with them. However, it cannot be simply done. The inmates would be too ashamed to talk to their lawyers (*nahihya sila*) or too afraid to the BJMP to ask permission (*baka makulitan sa akin ang empleyado*). Sometimes, it even takes a *matik o kaunting pampadulas* (bribe money) to some jail guards before being allowed to talk to a lawyer.

The inmates giving their opinions on how to fasten the case procedures



PRA activities number 4

Corollary PRA activities number 5

Vivid description of an inmate's condition during court hearing

Methodology:

A participant was asked to share his ideas on the travails of an inmate when going to a court hearing. The said inmate was very vocal in sharing his ideas during group discussions and he had the tendency to dominate the discussions. As a PRA technique, he was given a special assignment. There, he poured himself out. Afterwards, he presented what he had written to the members of the group and they validated the answers.

Results:

Ang kalagayan ng inmate pag nag hearing
The situation of an inmate when he is brought to the hearing

1. Kulang sa tulog, (alas dose na nakatulog dahil di pa pinababa sa chapel, naghintay ng turn-over ng jail guards. Tapos alas singko ng umaga, nagising na para sa bilangan.)

Lack of sleep (the inmates slept at around 12 am because they were not allowed to go to the chapel or sleeping area. The jail guards have not yet turned over their scheduled shifts. Then, the inmates woke up at 5 am for the head counting.) See PRA on sleeping conditions of the inmates

As such many inmates feel sleepy in courtroom. In fact, most of the inmates fell asleep while waiting for the judge and the lawyers to arrive. Most of the time, the inmates could not concentrate on hearing the developments of the case because they are too sleepy.

2. Gutom (dalawang pandesal at kape ang agahan)

Hungry (they took 2 pieces of bread and coffee for breakfast) See PRA on food conditions of the inmates

Most of the inmates feel weak when they are in the courtroom. They took their breakfast at around 5:30 in the morning, such that by 9:00 am or the start of the hearings, they already feel hungry. Worse, there are some judges who extend their hearings up until 12:30 in the afternoon, oblivious of the conditions of the inmates in the courtroom. An inmate admitted, that due to extreme hunger, he can no longer think of the proper answer to give the court. He said “yes” to every questions asked by the prosecutor. He never knew that he already admitted the charged against him.

3. Nangangamoy (dahil di nakapaligo, kulang sa tubig o walang tubig; biglaan ang tawag ng hearing)

Stinking smell (the inmates were not able to take a bath due to lack of water or no water at all. Sometimes, the inmate was informed of the hearing very late in the day.)

The inmates are ashamed or “nahihiya” of themselves in the courtroom. They knew that they have a stinking smell. The overcrowdedness of the cell gives them a distinctively putrid odor. Also, some inmates do not take a bath before going to the hearing because of lack of water. They knew their lowly conditions by the reactions of court employees and other people in the courtroom. They would cover their noses and frown upon the inmates because of their smell. Most inmates would interpret this as a

lack of concern on their plight.

4. Gusgusin ang damit (di nakapaglaba, walang sabon)

The dress are untidy (the inmates cannot wash their clothes due to lack of washing detergents)

Some inmates also come to court hearings with dirty clothes. Their untidy form makes them look apathetic in the courtroom. Some of the inmates look guilty or “mukhang guilty” just by the appearance alone.

All the inmates are required to use yellow shirt. It is the basis of the jail escorts in determining who the inmates are among the crowd. The inmates are easily identified and secured through the yellow uniform. However, some inmates complain that the yellow uniform works against them. This is especially true for inmates whose witnesses do not have a direct and positive identification of the suspects. Sometimes, the inmates are identified to be the perpetrators of the crime not on the basis the witness’ real knowledge of the incident but on the witness’ reliance on the yellow uniform of the inmates that expressly said that they are the suspects in the case.

5. Hindi diretsong maglakad (may pigsa sa puwit)

The inmate cannot walk straight. (He is usually nursing boils in his buttocks) See PRA on medical conditions

The inmates also go to court afflicted with different skin and airborne diseases. As such, due to their physical conditions, the inmates cannot fully understand the developments in the hearings. There were cases reported that inmates admit guilt to the offense charged against them not because they are truly guilty but because they can no longer stand the condition inside the jail. They would rather be convicted and be transferred to Muntinglupa, which is much better place than the Quezon City Jail in terms of space area.

6. Pagod (isang oras nakatayo sa bus na siksikan papuntang korte)

Tired (The inmates stood for an hour inside the bus when they traveled going to the court.

The Quezon City Jail has limited transport capability. They make use of a single van in transporting at least 200 inmates for a court hearing. As such, the inmates are squeezed inside the van. By the time the inmates reach the courtroom, their energies have already been sapped. Sometimes, the van also malfunctions, such that the inmates are asked to push the van before it can start running. This additional burden makes the inmates drained in the hearing.

7. Nahihilo (may katabi siya sa bus na naninigarilyo)

Head swirling (the inmate was a passive smoker inside the bus)

For some inmates, the way to deal with their hunger is to smoke cigarettes. That is why, many inmates smoke in the bus while waiting for other inmates to arrive. Non-smokers are therefore exposed to the smoke exhaled by other inmates. The non-smokers lose much of their energies because of the smell that they cannot turn themselves away with. The net effect is that inside the courtroom, they have their heads swirling.

8. Nakaposas (kulang ng escort, para di makatakas)

Handcuffed (there are lack of escort officers, they are tightly tied so that they won't escape.

The inmates are handcuffed. Due to the lack of escort officers, three to four inmates are handcuffed to each other to lessen their mobility. Inside the courtroom, the inmates cannot effectively talk to their lawyer, as all handcuffed inmates have to approach the lawyer all at the same time. The inmates are thus limited in confiding the details of the case as other inmates are within hearing distance.

9. Nahihiya (sa kamag-anak, dahil sa aba niyang kalagayan)

Ashamed (to the members of his family due to his lowly conditions.)

The inmates said that they feel ashamed and insecure of themselves when their relatives visit them inside the courtroom. They lose all self esteem for bringing ignominy to their family. Many inmates thus feel unconfident everytime they are in the courtroom. This is especially true when they are in the witness stand.

10. Mas lalong nahihiya (sa PAO lawyer, dahil baka makulitan sa kanya)

More ashamed (to the PAO lawyer, they may find the inmates unruly)

The inmates are concerned that if they asked too many questions to their lawyers, they will be misinterpreted as "Makulit" or unruly. For the lowly inmates, the PAO lawyers are their "savior" or tagapagligtas and they should be given utmost respect. Actually, many inmates feel "nanlilit" in front of their lawyers especially when the inmates could not give the lawyers even a single centavo for their legal service. As such, even if the inmates would want so much to ask questions to their PAO lawyers, they are psychologically restrained from doing so. Eventually, when they are already inside the jail, they would say, "sana natanong ko sa abogado ko..." or " I should have asked my lawyer ..."

11. Natatakot magtanong (baka pagalitan siya ng empleyado)

Afraid to ask questions (the jailguards may get angry at them)

The inmates also want to ask questions to the judge, to the prosecutors and the court staff about the details of their case but then, they are afraid that the escort officers or empleyado may misconstrue the act as a form of “pangungulit” in the courtroom. Inmates are not even allowed to make a phone call inside the court chambers. The jail escort officer’s primary consideration is the security of the inmates and that he makes sure that no one will escape from him. As such, any unnecessary movements inside the courtroom, even asking questions to the court officers, must be asked permission from the jail officer.

12. Nanginginig (pag nakita niya ang Judge at ang piskal)

Trembling (when the inmates see the judge and the fiscal)

Many inmates say that they tremble in fear every time they see the judge and prosecutors who will decide on their lives and freedom. The mere sight of the person in black robes and the scary voice of the fiscal are enough stimuli for some inmates to have their entrails loosened. As in the famous advertisements of Diatabs, some inmates lose their physical senses when they are in the witness stand due to the overwhelming appearance of the judge and the fiscal. As such, they fleet through the questions without necessarily thinking over their answers. Nababablangko sila. They blank out.

13. Di alam ang nangyayari (English ang mga pinagsasabi)

Do not know what is happening (The language used is English)

Many inmates do not understand what is happening inside the courtroom. Though the questions are translated for them when they are in the witness stand, the ordinary exchanges among the lawyers and the judges are not translated into a language that they understand. As such, they feel lost in the middle of the discussions. The PAO lawyers do not have the luxury of time to explain the little details of the case to the inmates as the lawyers have to attend to other cases.

Also, the inmates’ indicator that a lawyer had been fighting for his case is the capability of the lawyer to speak in English and the strength of his voice in the courtroom. Many inmates feel that if their lawyer does not speak that much inside the courtroom, then they may be sleeping on their cases.

Final Comment:

Isipin mo na lang ang kalagayan ng inmate: kung siya ay puyat, gutom, nangangamoy, pagod, nakakaawa ang hitsura, walang tiwala sa sarili, di naiintindihan ang nangyayari sa paligid, tapos siya ay isasalang sa witness stand na hindi man lang nabibigyan ng suporta ng kanyang PAO lawyer, isipin mo kung ano ang mangyayari? Paano niya mapapalabas ang totoo, paano niya maipaglalaban ang sarili? Hindi na patas ang laban. Doon pa lang talo na siya.

Imagine the condition of an inmate: if he is sleepy, hungry, smelly, exhausted, looks miserable, does not have self esteem, does not understand the events in his surroundings, and then, he is examined in the witness stand, without the support of the PAO lawyer, imagine what will happen. How will he let the truth out, how will he fight for himself? The playing field is unequal. There and then, he is lost.

The inmates feel that their right to be heard, their right to information, their right to due process and equal protection of the laws are substantially curtailed. The physical conditions in the jail, the lowly status of an inmate in the social ladder, the procedural barriers and the psychological weakness makes them timid and shy in the courtroom. As such, the quest for justice, the search for truth has already been compromised.

PRA activities number 6

Description of the concept of inmate paralegal

Methodology

The paralegal coordinators were asked to share the nature of advice that they give to their fellow inmates when the inmates seek their help. They made a matrix on the different case scenario and the corresponding advice. Then they assessed the impacts of this advice to the overall administration of justice.

Social capability of protagonists	Nature of offense	Truthfulness of the accused in the case	Example	Inmate paralegal advice	Effect to the administration of justice
Poor complainant vs poor accused	Bailable offense	Truly guilty	Slight injuries, slander Away kapitbahay or neighbor's quarrel	Since the accused will be set free on bail, the accused should fight for the case. He should wait till the complainant will be worn out. When the complainant already lose steam in fighting for the case, then the accused should offer to settle amicably the case. The settlement will be on the terms of the accused.	Most of the accused are eventually acquitted or case dismissed. Doesn't serve the end of justice.
		Not truly guilty	Trespassing. These are cases filed because of other motives.	The accused will be set free on bail. Since he is truly innocent, then he should fight to get an acquittal. He must wait till the complainant will not proceed in pursuing the case. He must not enter into a compromise.	The end of justice is met but by default.
	Non-bailable	Truly guilty	Murder, rape. Crime of passion, uneducated people	The accused will be put in jail. The inmate should hope to get an acquittal. But generally, the accused are punished by the very length of criminal procedure. (May puhunan na pagdating sa Munti.) or they have already served a good part of their sentence once they are transferred to Muntinglupa Penitentiary. Since they are on jail, settlement will be on the terms of the complainant.	The end of justice is met by default even if the accused is acquitted; he already served his sentence.
		Not truly guilty	Murder, rape. These are cases filed with the interference of other parties. Politically motivated.	The accused will languish in jail. Hopes to get an acquittal. He should get ready with presenting all the witnesses in his behalf and prepare himself with any eventuality.	The accused already suffered even if acquitted, worst if the accused will be convicted. The government has no compensation for his long stay in jail.
	Bailable	Truly	Snatching,	Since the accused does not have the money to post bail,	The punishment

	but no money to post bail	guilty	Theft. These are cases of “pushed to the wall” and caught in the cycle of crime	he will have to wait to serve the minimum of the sentence, then avail of plea bargain. The inmates should wait for the non-apperance of the complainant for three consecutive hearings. (Daanin sa tiyaga). When the accused already stayed in jail for sizeable number of months, he will avail of jail decongestion programs on the pretext that he already served the minimum sentence. These are especially true for cases of recidivists.	imposed is usually the minimum penalty. The will avail of jail decongestion programs.
		Not truly guilty	Child abuse, qualified seduction. These are cases filed where courts are used to get back at the other party	Fight for the case. Wait for the acquittal. But in the mid-stream, will be forced to admit, just so to avail of lesser penalties.	Most of the accused stayed in jail longer than the time imposed as a penalty. Some already served sentence but the trial is still going on
Rich complainant versus rich accused	Bailable offense	Truly guilty	Homicide, estafa, BP 22,	The accused will be released on bail. Most of the time, the accused jumps bail and hide to avoid conviction. Richer accused leaves the country. The lawyers of the accused will file all motions that could be filed just so to delay the case. The complainant will try all means to make the charge against the accused to be a non-bailable offense. The accused on the other hand will have to fight for a bailable offense (especially on hairline cases like murder and homicide) The accused will work for settlement of the case but on his terms.	The complainant is in the disadvantage. Most of the time, out of disgust, they will accept the settlement of the case on the terms of the accused. Seldom will be there be a conviction.
		Not-truly guilty	Slander, conflict among the rich and famous	The accused is set free on bail. He should regularly attend the hearings. He should wait for the acquittal. He should find means to prolong the case. Only the lawyers of both parties attend the hearings. Sometimes the court recommends for settlement of the case	The cases are usually dismissed. The end of justice is served but by default. If found guilty in the local court, they could always appeal in the higher courts.
	Non bailable - offense	Truly guilty	Frat related violence, rich kids getting in conflict with their peers.	The accused is put in jail. He should try all means to get out of jail by settling the case, bribing the police, prosecutors and judges. On the other hand, the complainant should always look out. The complainant may suddenly learn that the case had been “ginapang” or manipulated. Settlement is on the terms of the complainant. While in jail, accused will “recreate” an existence that will approximate the amenities he receives prior to incarceration. The accused may also purposefully delay the proceedings of the case to avoid sure conviction and wait for a favorable judge who could decide on his case	The end of justice is met by default. The accused is punished while undergoing trial. Even if the accused is acquitted, he already served his sentence

		Not truly guilty	Wrong identification in high profile cases	The accused is put in jail. He should try all means to get out of jail, fight out the case till he is acquitted. In mid-stream, he may be forced to plead guilty to a lower offense and settle amicably. While in jail, he should get all the amenities possible.	The accused had suffered even if acquitted. There are no compensation from the government on the harm done to the accused.
Rich Complainant versus poor accused	Bailable offense	Truly Guilty	Household maids stealing from their complainants	The complainant will make the case non-bailable in cahoots with the police and prosecutors. If it will not work out, the complainant will make sure all the evidence will be presented in court. Complainant will make sure the accused cannot jump bail.	Justice will be swift. The accused will be punished. But sometimes the punishment is very severe. For stealing P2000, they can be put in jail for 6-12 years.
		Not truly guilty	Tresspassing, Rich neighbors fighting with poor neighbors	The accused will fight it out. The accused can be charged of other offenses (patong kaso) so that he will rot in jail longer. Eventually, the accused will ask for forgiveness and admit guilt.	Sometimes the accused gets convicted. The courts are used a police arm of the rich.
	Non-bailable offense	Truly guilty	Kidnap for ransom, robbery with homicide.	The complainant will ask for the maximum penalty. The complainant will visit the police and jails to ensure that the accused are not given special treatment. The complainant makes sure that they will not escape. To the extreme, accused can be subjected to "salvagings". As such the inmates should be careful with his dealings inside the jail.	Justice is swift. Sometimes, if the accused are acquitted because of insufficiency of evidence, the complainant can file a new case. Accused languish in jail.
		Not truly guilty	Fall guys in heinous crimes, those who were presented by the police just to beat the deadline	The accused languish in jail. Sometimes complainant does not follow up the case because they do not totally believe in the testimony of the police.	Even if acquitted, he already suffered long period of incarceration. No compensation from the government.
	Bailable but no money to post bail	Truly guilty	Robbery snatching	The accused are advised to wait till the complainant gets tired of following up the case. Then when the opportune time comes, the accused are advised to plead guilty to a lower offense.	The accused are released after serving the minimum sentence. Will avail of jail decongestion programs
		Not truly	Vandalism, destruction of	The accused will fight for his innocence. But in mid-stream, he will plead guilty just to avail of probation.	These are mechanisms of

		guilty	properties, alarm and scandal. Harassment cases	He waits till the complainant is no longer interested in the case.	the rich to put the poor in their toes.
Poor complainant versus rich accused	Bailable offense	Truly guilty	Serious Physical injuries. Power trip by rich persons over poor ones	The poor complainant fears that the accused will turn the case against him. The accused is out on bail. The complainant will just receive any reparations on damages done. He is advised to likely settle.	Very seldom will be a conviction.
		Not truly guilty	Other factors are involved. The poor complainant must have been “used” by the enemies of the accused	This is a very unlikely scenario. The rich accused will definitely get back at the poor complainant	The criminal justice system is used for political battle.
	Non Bailable offense	Truly guilty	Illegal recruitment, rape case of phedophiles	Accused will settle the case. The accused can purposefully drag the case and wait for the environment to settle down. Will try to bribe the police, prosecutors and judges to make the case a bailable offense. Wait till the complainant’s resources is depleted.	There will be conviction only if there are pressures from the media and other sectors
	Non-bailable offense	Not Truly guilty	These are “politically motivated” cases. Poor complainants who have legitimate grievances over certain personalities are being used by the enemy of these personalities and blow the case out of proportions	The accused will fight for his innocence. He will employ all resources possible to get his name cleared. While in jail, he will “recreate” an environment that will approximate the amenities he received. He will play as a patron to the inmates and jail guards alike until he wields political power inside the jail. Then, he could use his resources in the media to portray a positive image of him inside the jail. The inmates will advice him to shift the battle not only in the courtroom but to the public opinion as well.	The criminal justice system is just but a venue of the political struggle. The case is not subjected on the merits but on other factors like political expediency
State versus poor	Bailable offense	Guilty	Concealing deadly weapon, illegal gambling, illegal possession of firearms.	The police will ask for a “pang-areglo”. If the accused cannot produce one, he will be officially charged (tuluyan). Accused jumps bail. He doesn’t attend hearings. Case will be archived. When the accused will be charged in a new case sometime in the future, the old case will prompt up	Cases are usually archived/ or police do not attend in the hearings. Case dismissed for lack of evidence.
		Not truly guilty	Anti-tattoo, vagrancy	The police will ask for a “pang-areglo”. The accused will fight it out. But he should be wary that the police will file additional charges against him. When the trial commences, the accused also does not attend hearings. Case will be archived. When the accused seek for police and NBI clearance, he will be shock to learn that he still has a pending case after many years.	Case are usually archived. The police officers will not pursue the case.
	Non-bailable offense	Guilty	Drug related case. RA9165 Shabu pushing or selling of more than 10	Police will ask for a “lagay” or bribe in order to change the nature of the offense to a bailable one. The inmates are advised to talk to their arresting officers not to attend three consecutive hearings so that the case will	The courts and penal systems are used as means to

			grams of shabu	be dismissed by the court	threaten the accused of possible incarceration
		Not truly guilty	Frameup in drug cases	The accused are advised to go slow against the police officers. The accused may have done something wrong that is why he earned the ire of police officers or "napag-initan siya." The accused should do everything to settle the case amicably.	
	Bailable offense but do not have money to post bail	Guilty	Rugby, Shoplifting	The inmates do not have money to settle the case. He is advised to plead guilty to a lower offense. But the inmates are advised that the penalty should be qualified for the requirements of probation or "Pasok sa probation".	The inmates usually stay in jail longer than the maximum impossible penalty.
		Not truly guilty	City ordinance 5900	The inmates have to patiently wait for the termination of the case. He will wait for the serving at least six months and then seek for the provisional dismissal of the case. He is advised to talk to his arresting officers and to convince them not to attend in the hearings.	The inmate may eventually be declared as innocent but have already languished in jail for a couple of years.
State versus rich accused	Bailable	Guilty	Drag race, traffic violations, illegal possession of firearms	The accused are advised to settle the case amicably. Advised to do everything to make the case "disappear". He can drag the case till the police officers will no longer pursue the case.	The laws are not respected.
		Not truly guilty	Planted evidence	The accused fights for the case. Since he is out of bail, he can pursue the case and can get back to his complainants.	The resources of the accused can balance the disparity of the situation.
	Non bailable offense	Guilty	Drug related, especially ecstasy, Computer hacking	The accused languish in jail. Have to temporarily accept the harsh penal conditions. He is advised to wait for an opportune time to settle the case.	The accused is punished by default. He will languish in jail during the trial.
		Not truly guilty	Frame up charges on drugs cases	The state laws are used by state authorities not for purpose of implementing the laws but to advance their personalistic interests	

Discussions of activity

The inmate paralegal reveals a lot of things on the intentions of the inmates on giving advice to their fellow inmates. For one, the main intention is how to let the inmates regain back their freedom. For most of the inmates, it does not matter if the method of gaining freedom is through legitimate or non-legitimate means.

Two, the inmate paralegal is the mechanism where inmates share and pass on the knowledge they have to other inmates. First time offenders are oriented on the mechanics of the criminal justice system and are advised on how to maximize the weak points: on how to bribe, on how to deal with police officers and on the ways to elude arrests. The inmates are exposed to the tricks of the criminal trade commonly called “ang gulang ng kulungan” and by the time of their release, they are fully educated on how to beat the legal system. They are thus more emboldened to commit other crimes. As such, they metamorphosed from being petty to hardened criminals.

The inmate paralegal also details the nature of cases that take a longer time before decided upon. It reflects how the relationship of power (rich complainant versus poor accused, for example) translates in the length of the trial.

The inmate paralegal also reflects specific mechanics on how the cases of the inmates are decided not on the merits of the case but rather on other factors.

Synthesis

The PRA activities on the paralegal conditions of the inmates expose a basic loophole in the country’s criminal justice system. For one, the manner in which the police gather evidence in developing the case are defective. Coupled with this is the delay by the courts in the disposition of the inmates’ cases.

The PRA activities reveal that the reasons for the delay of the cases are very basic and it basically points to the lack of court personnel and facilities. The direct victims of this neglect are the inmates who have now to endure a lengthy criminal prosecution, without even being judged guilty by the courts.

In order to augment the workforce in case management, the jail develops its own concept of inmate paralegal. There are inmate paralegal coordinators who function as intermediaries in the disposition of cases and become the repositories of paralegal advice on how to go about the criminal justice system.

The inmates’ responses to their paralegal situation are reflective of the sociopolitical structure inside the jail. The inmates’ lowly stature in the social ladder, the incapability to understand the language of the court and the physical limitations of the jail facilities made them incapable to fight in a legal and legitimate way. The inmates thus responded by developing a mechanism where they could bit the system and turn its defects into their advantage.

This mechanism eventually poses a threat in the viability of the administration of justice. The inmates perceive that they are the mere objects of the case and they are devoid of any involvement. As such, even in the face of the delays, they seem incapable to complain against their lot. Many inmates become hopeless, and worse, if they are given the chance to be freed again, they actualize the charges hurled against them.



Inmates in the Holding area in the Quezon City Hall of Justice while waiting for their hearing



These are inmates from the police precincts. They are about to be committed in the Quezon City Jail. See how they are tied in a row.

PRA activities to the Quezon City Jail Learners in the Non-Formal Education

Introduction

Since 1996, there has been Functional Literacy Classes in the Quezon City Jail. The main recipients were inmates who did not finish elementary or high school education. It was started by a group of volunteers headed by Fr. Anthony J. Ranada of the Preso Foundation. Initially, the teachers were inmates themselves, with a syllabus provided by the Department of Education Culture and Sports.

Eventually, members of the NGO community recognized the program. Now, it is continually receiving a three-month budget, with volunteers working as the Non-Formal Instructors.

There have been numerous batches that graduated from the program. The graduates took the Accreditation and Equivalency Tests administered by the Bureau of Non-Formal Education after the end of the three-month program. The graduates can be promoted to higher grade or year level (depending on the program they enrolled in) if they pass the exam. The graduates also receive a certificate of completion duly signed by the Director of the Bureau of Non-Formal Education.

Profile of the Non-formal Education program:

Number of instructors:	3
Number of learners:	75
Length of the Program:	3 months
Place of study:	Chapel Area
Organizers of the Program	Preso Foundation Rehabilitation Section of the BJMP-QCJ Volunteers (Sister Dette Carino, Sister Auxillium Sayle)
Financier	Office of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS)

Purpose of the PRA activities

The purpose of the PRA is twofold:

1. To determine the present state of the Non-Formal Education Program
 - a. The motivations of the learners on studying
 - b. The total number of participants
 - c. The nature of subjects being taught
 - d. The problems that they encountered
 - e. The solutions that they arrived at to solve their problems

2. To depict the state of the learners in order to show a wider picture of the Quezon City Jail.
 - a. The learners' lifestyle as compared to an ordinary inmates' lifestyle in jail.
 - b. The learners' concern vis-à-vis the power structures and culture in the jail.

The PRA activities for the members of the Non-Formal Education reveals the dynamics of power-relations among the inmates, jail guards and NGO's inside the jails. It shows how coordination or non-coordination with inmate leaders and jail guards and how the recognition or non-recognition of jail culture can make or break the programs and activities in the jail.

PRA activities number 1

Listing the motivations of a learner

Motivations of a Learner
(Why did they enroll in the Non-Formal Education)

Methodology:

The learners were divided into three groups with 5-7 members. Each group was given a manila paper and pentel pen.

The members of the first group were asked to share their experiences as a student in the literacy class. The Question posted was: "Ano ang kanilang dahilan sa pagsali sa Literacy program" or the reasons they joined the literacy program. A leader was asked to write down their answers. After listing their motivations, they were asked which among these motivations were the more crucial ones.

Afterwards, the group leader presented their answers in a bigger group discussion. The members of the other groups grilled and confirmed their answers. Then a synthesis was made.

Results:

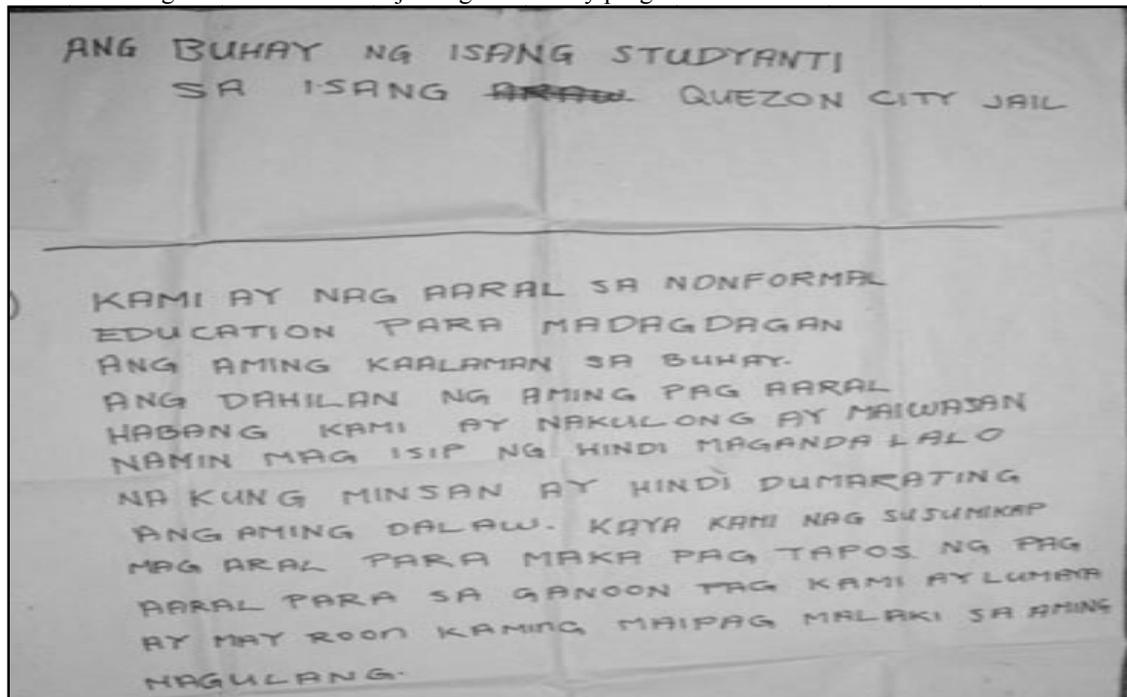
"ANG BUHAY NG ISANG ESTUDYANTE SA QUEZON CITY JAIL"
(The life of a student in the Quezon City Jail)

"Kami ay nag-aaral sa Non-Formal Education para madagdagan ang aming kaalaman sa buhay. Ang dahilan ng aming pag-aaral habang kami ay nakakulong ay maiwasan naming ang mag-isip ng hindi maganda lalo na kung minsan ay hindi dumarating ang aming dalaw. Kaya kami nagsusumikap mag-aral para makatapos ng pag-aaral para sa ganoon pag kami ay lumaya ay mayroon kaming maipagmamalaki sa aming magulang"

We study in the Non Formal Education in order to increase our knowledge in life. The reason why we study while we are in jail is to avoid thinking ill especially if our visitors

are not able to come. We study hard so that when we get released, our parents could be proud of us.

Inmates sharing their motivations of joining the literacy program



(PRA activities number 1)

Their motivations include:

1. *Nasasabitan ng medalya* (They are pinned with a medal)
2. *Natutuwa ang magulang* (The parents are very happy)
3. *May natatanggap na diploma* (They receive a diploma)
4. *Trophy* (They receive a trophy)
5. *Nakakatapos ng pag-aaral* (They finish their studies)
6. *Nakakalabas ng brigada* (They can go out of their brigades)

The motivations of the learners are very basic. Many are very thankful that even if they are inside the jail, they are lucky enough to be enrolled and have the chance to finish their studies. One inmate remarked that “he even can’t imagine that in his entire life his mother would pin a medal on him on their graduation day.” It is an affirmation of his humanity, (*bumalik ang katauhan ko*) he said.

The motivation “they can go out of their brigades” is true to all learners. It is truly a privilege to become a student. The inmates are not allowed to go out of their cells without “valid” reasons. Being a student entitles an inmate to go out of the cells during periods of study.

The inmates are not allowed to go out of the cells by the officers of the brigade because it is a “security risk”. This is especially true for *Pangkat* or gang members. Trouble may erupt anytime, and to avoid being placed in a crossfire or *sawi*, the inmates are not allowed to roam around the jail premises. Considering that there is over crowdedness, little ventilation and host of other problems inside the cells, it is truly a privilege to get out of the cells once in a while.

The learners are thus warned of the risks that are involved if they attend their classes. As a solution, the different *brigada* have adapted two ways to “protect” the learners.

1. To provide the learners with “*escorts*”. The escorts are inmates with a special mission to protect their “*kakosa*”. Should there be trouble erupting any time, they immediately inform, secure and bring to the brigade their “*kakosa*”. They are armed with “*tinapay*” or deadly weapons.
2. To be accompanied by a “*coordinator*”. The learners will go to the learning area as one flock herded by a *coordinator*. (That is why, they always walk by groups)

PRA activities number 2

Listing the things learned in school

Methodology:

The members of the second group were asked to share the things that they study in the literacy program. They made a listing of the modules that they are familiar with. A group secretary wrote the answers and two members reported the answers.

While reporting, the members of the other groups classified the answers. There were additional indicators that they volunteered in order to show more clearly the impact and significance of their learnings.

The result:

**MGA PINAG-AARALAN SA NON-FORMAL EDUCATION
(Things learned in the Non-Formal Education)**

Mga nilalaman ng modyol (Contents of the module)	Sino ang mga nag-aaral (Who study these modules)	Nagagawa ba habang pinag-aaralan? (Are these being undertaken while studied upon)	Gaano karami ang natutunan. (How much knowledge gained from it)	Gaano ito magagamit sa laya. (How usable would it be upon release)
1. Kasaysan ng bundok (History of mountains)	One learner	Theoretical		
2. Paano magtayo ng negosyo (How to put up a business)	All the learners	Theoretical. No money to come up with a business	◆◆◆◆	♀♀♀♀♀♀
3. Solar system	One learner	Theoretical.		
4. Pagtatanim (Planting)	All learners	Theoretical. No place to plant		
5. Science and technology	One learner	Theoretical		
6. Social Studies and History	All learners	Theoretical		♀♀
7. Computer program	All learners	Hands on	◆◆◆◆◆	♀♀♀♀♀♀♀
8. English	Few learners	Theoretical Do not speak English in class	◆	♀♀♀♀♀♀
9. Nervous System	One learner	Theoretical		
10. Filipino	All learners	Hands on	◆◆◆◆◆◆	♀♀♀♀♀♀♀♀♀
11. Math	All learners	Hands on	◆◆◆◆	♀♀♀♀♀
12. Spelling	Some learners	Hands on	◆	♀♀♀
13. Practical Arts	Few learners	Theoretical	◆	
14. Driving Computer	Same as computer lessons			
15. Dagdag kaalaman sa Kaso.(Para-legal modules)	All learners	Hands on	◆◆◆◆	♀♀♀♀♀♀

16. Paggagamot (healing)	Some learners	Theoretical	◆	♀♀♀♀
17. Pakikisalamuha sa ibang tao (Dealing with other people)	All learners	Hands on	◆◆◆◆	♀♀♀♀♀♀♀♀
18. Pagpapahalaga sa halaman (Care for the environment)	One learner			
19. Kalindaryo (How to use the Calendar)	Many learners	Hands on	◆◆◆◆	♀
20. Lindol (What to do during earthquake)	Some learners	Theoretical No drills	◆◆◆	♀
21. How to avoid AIDS	Some learners	Theoretical No materials	◆◆◆	♀

1. The learners of the Non-Formal Education may choose any module they wish to study. The most popular modules are those being studied by all learners. These include:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| a. How to put up a business | All learners |
| b. Planting | All learners |
| c. Social Studies and History | All learners |
| d. Computer Program | All learners |
| e. Filipino | All learners |
| f. Math | All learners |
| g. Paralegal Modules | All learners |
| h. Dealing with other people (Value formation) | All learners |

Some modules are being studied by few or at best one learner. This is an indicator that the learners have wide latitude on the modules that they are studying. The very nature of the Non-Formal Education is to choose what is most applicable on the needs of the learners and suited in the inmates' situation.

2. Most of the modules are studied "theoretically". The learners cannot "practically" apply what they are studying. These is due to the following reasons:

- There are no facilities to apply the concepts (for example no place to plant trees)
- There are no instruments for studying (for example no telescope for solar system studies)
- There are no venues for actualization of the concepts (for example, they cannot run a sample business)

3. There are modules were many learners gain enormous knowledge. They claim that they got a lot of inputs in their learning. Among these are:

- How to come up with a business
- Planting
- Computer program
- Filipino
- Math
- Para-legal Modules
- Dealing with other people (Values formation)
- Use of the calendar

- i. What to do during earthquakes
- j. How to avoid AIDS

However, learners indicate that some modules do not excite them and got very little knowledge from it. The following reasons were mentioned:

- a. It is alien to their experience.
- b. It is not practical to their needs

For example: They do not know the implications of studying mountains. For one, they presently cannot see a mountain and second, they do not need any mountains when they are released.

- 4. There are knowledge gained from the modules which the learners strongly believe can have a remarkable use when they will a free man. These include:
 - a. How to come up with Business
 - b. Computer program
 - c. Filipino
 - d. Math
 - e. Modules on Paralegal
 - f. Dealing with other people (Values formation)
- 5. From the indicators above, the learners summarized that the subjects which they want to study while in jail are:
 - a. Those that will provide them with knowledge to come up with their own businesses. They wish to be employed and work independently.
 - b. Improve on their communications and analytic skills (Filipino and Math) They wish to become articulate and smart (*masabi ang gustong sabihin*)
 - c. They are fascinated with computers. They believe that it is the “wave of the future”.
 - d. They want to study the legal system of the country. They say that if only they knew their rights before they were detained, they could have easily been out of jail. Now, with confidence, they say that should they be arrested again with violations on their constitutional rights, they know what to do and where to seek redress.
 - e. Some inmates had this to say: “They wish to be morally upright citizens. They wish to know their obligations as members of the family, of the community and the society. They say that if only they knew how to properly deal with their neighbors and to follow the laws of the land, they may not have been in jail.”

The inmates listing the things learned in class and qualifying their answers

MGA PINAGMAMAN SA NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

MGA NILALAMAN NG MODYOL

1. MGA KADALAYAN NG BUNDOK.
2. PAANO MAGTAYO NG NEGOSYO. LAHAT * * * * *
3. SOLAR SYSTEM.
4. PAGTATANI. LAHAT * * * * *
5. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
6. SOCIAL STUDIES / HISTORY LAHAT * *
7. COMPUTER PROGRAM. * * * * * LAHAT MAGAGANA. * * * * *
8. ENGLISH. * * * * *
9. NERVOUS SYSTEM.
10. FILIPINO. UHAT. * * * * *
11. MATH. * * * * * MAGAGANA * * * * *
12. SPELLING. * * *
13. PRACTICAL ARTS. *
14. DRIVING-COMPUTER. * * * * *
15. PAGDAG KALAMAN TUNGKOL SA KASO. * * * * *
16. PAG GAGAMOT. * * * * *
17. PAKIKICALAMOGA SA IBANG TAO. * * * * * MAGAGANA * * * * *
18. PAG HAHALAGA SA HALAMAN.
19. EDUKASYON
20. KALINDARYO * * * * * MAGAGANA *
21. LINDOL * * * * *
22. AIDS * * * * *

Joel Torres
23 years old
SUBD-DISTRICT 1
OBPERO
SPUTNIK

EGONIO NELSON
OBPERO SPUTNIK
24 YEARS OLD

RAUDY MONCADA
13 YEARS OLD
SPUTNIK
R. THORON

JESSIE MARLANN SANCHEZ
22-YEAR OLD SSS-DISTRICT

FILomeno MALIBO JR.
24-YEAR OLD SSS-DISTRICT
SILPA

(PRA activities number 2)

PRA activities number 3
Schedules of the students

Iskedyul ng isang Estudyante (Schedule of a student)		
Oras (Time)	Gawain (Activity)	
	<u>Student gang member</u>	<u>Student non-gang member</u>
6:30 am	<i>Bilangan</i> (Headcount)	<i>Bilangan</i> (Headcount)
7:00 am	<i>Almusal</i> (Breakfast)	
7:30 am	<i>Ligo</i> (Take a bath)	<i>Almusal</i> (Breakfast)
8:00 am	<i>Escorting</i> (Serves as a bodyguard to inmate leaders when the leaders get out of the cell)	<i>Sahuran ng bigas at ulam</i> (Getting the rice and viands from the <i>ranchero</i>)
9:00 am		<i>Magsaing at magluto ng ulam</i> (cooking the food)
10:00am	Going to class	Going to class
12:00pm	Lunch time	Lunch time
12:30pm	<i>Magpahinga</i> (rest or sleep)	
1:00pm		Rest or sleep
3:00pm	<i>Bilangan</i> (Headcount)	Headcount
3:30pm	<i>Mag-aral sa loob ng brigada</i> (Studying inside the Brigade)	<i>Meryenda</i> (snacks)
4:00pm		<i>Magpahinga</i> (rest)
4:30pm	<i>Tingnan kung nakaduty ang mga tao ko</i> (See if my people are on duty)	
5:00pm	<i>Bilangan</i> (headcount)	<i>Bilangan</i> (headcount)
6:00pm	Duty	<i>Rosaryo</i> (praying the rosary)
6:30pm		cook for dinner
7:30pm	Dinner	Dinner
8:30pm	<i>Sugal, nood tv, sulat, aral</i> Gamble, watch tv, write letters, study	rest and sleep
11:00pm	<i>Bilangan</i> (headcount)	<i>Bilangan</i> (headcount)
12:00pm	Sleep	Sleep

The gang member-students have the added responsibility of looking after the “safety” of their fellow inmates. However, their “*kakosa*” are the ones who cook food for them. The gang member-students also have more responsibilities inside the cells and they have to seek permission from the “*Bantay pinto*” or gate keeper before they can be allowed to get out of the cells. They must be able to finish their “*duties*” first like cleaning the “*buyon*” or comfort rooms.

Non-gang members-students have more leeway. They can roam more freely than gang member-students. They are more independent. However, they also have to fend for

themselves alone, that is cook their own food. Also, since the gangs are more organized compared to non-gang members, the spaces of gangs are bigger than non-gang members. They have more *brigada* (especially the Batang City Jail). The non-gang member students therefore are more pitiful than gang member students.

The central element in the life of the inmates is the *Bilangan* or headcount. Most inmates consider this as the essence of imprisonment. They are counted four times a day. Head counting is crucial in determining the schedule: It disrupts the sleep of the inmates, it disrupts the continuity of studies, and the entry of visitors. As Robin Padilla, a former inmate remarked: *Bilanggo* means : *Binibilang at tinatago*.

The learners study only two hours a day, for five days a week. This is limited considering the number of modules and ideal pace of study.

The schedule of the students also reveals that there is limited place and time of study to do their assignments. They have to study in their very cramped cells with noisy people around. The students claim that it is not conducive for learning.

The Schedule also reveals that what they are studying in the Non-Formal education is not parallel to what they are learning inside the cells. For example, a learner remarked that he finds it unexplainable that what he is studying in the values which is “love for other people and respect to their views” runs contrary to the tenets taught by his “chief escort”. The *chief escort* always advises them to look at the other party with contempt or “*hwag dapat pagkatiwalaan ang kabila*”. He is a member of the *escort team*, such that they have to protect their *kakosa* from any harm coming from the other party.

The learners depiction of daily schedule

TIME	EGORNO N.	DECEPIL M.	DELA CRUZ J.	AMEQUINON M.	BAILANGGO F.
6:30 AM	BILANGAN	BILANGAN		6:30 AM	BILANGAN
7:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		7:00 AM	BILANGAN
7:30	1:00	BILANGAN		7:30 AM	BILANGAN
8:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		8:00 AM	BILANGAN
8:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		8:30 AM	BILANGAN
9:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		9:00 AM	BILANGAN
9:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		9:30 AM	BILANGAN
10:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		10:00 AM	BILANGAN
10:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		10:30 AM	BILANGAN
11:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		11:00 AM	BILANGAN
11:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		11:30 AM	BILANGAN
12:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		12:00 PM	BILANGAN
12:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		12:30 PM	BILANGAN
1:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		1:00 PM	BILANGAN
1:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		1:30 PM	BILANGAN
2:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		2:00 PM	BILANGAN
2:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		2:30 PM	BILANGAN
3:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		3:00 PM	BILANGAN
3:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		3:30 PM	BILANGAN
4:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		4:00 PM	BILANGAN
4:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		4:30 PM	BILANGAN
5:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		5:00 PM	BILANGAN
5:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		5:30 PM	BILANGAN
6:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		6:00 PM	BILANGAN
6:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		6:30 PM	BILANGAN
7:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		7:00 PM	BILANGAN
7:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		7:30 PM	BILANGAN
8:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		8:00 PM	BILANGAN
8:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		8:30 PM	BILANGAN
9:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		9:00 PM	BILANGAN
9:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		9:30 PM	BILANGAN
10:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		10:00 PM	BILANGAN
10:30	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		10:30 PM	BILANGAN
11:00	ALMUSAL	BILANGAN		11:00 PM	BILANGAN

(PRA activities number 3)

PRA activities number 4

Listing the problems encountered by learners

Methodology:

The members of the third group were asked to share their struggles as students in the Literacy program. They list down all the problems that they encountered. A group leader wrote the answers in the manila paper. After which, he reported their findings to the members of the other groups.

The members of the other groups qualified the answers of the third group. They placed additional indicators: “effect to the learners” and the “impact of the problems to the program.” Then they synthesized their answers.

The result:

**Mga Problema ng isang estudyante
(Problems encountered by students)**

Nature of problem	Description	Effects to the learners	Impacts on studies
Kakulangan ng tubig (Lack of water)	Students can not take a bath, sweat-smell, sloppy	They feel ashamed of themselves, teachers are distracted of their smell	Motivations are low
Kakulangan ng lugar ng mga mag-aaral (Lack of place to study)	Crowded, the chapel area is the only place to study. There’s no complementary places like library	They cannot concentrate; they are constantly displaced. Their classrooms are transformed into cells.	Studies are hampered
Mahigpit na bantay pinto (Strict gate keeper)	They are not allowed to get out especially during periods of tensions. Also, if they are not at good graces of the inmate officers	They are forced to skip the classes. Or the teacher cannot conduct lessons	Study sessions are postponed
Nagugutom habang nag-aaral (Hungry while studying)	They have very little for breakfast (Bread and coffee) Bitin sa rancho (the food is insufficient and not nutritious.	They cannot concentrate on their studies. Their minds are willing but their stomachs are not.	Studies are disrupted.
Kulang sa Tulog (Lack of sleep)	No place for sleeping. Or the Headcount came very late (as late as 2 am) they cannot sleep during visiting hours (From 9am to 5pm)	They are sleepy during class hours. They cannot fully absorb the teachings of the instructors	Studies are disrupted
Kulang sa oras ng pag-aaral (Lack of time to study)	Only two hours of study per day. They have to compete in the hour use of the chapel. The chapel is intentionally for religious purposes only	They have to study fast. No quality time for studying. Always in the rush hour.	The modules may not be completed for the whole program

Kulang ang bilang ng mag-aaral (Lack of the number of students enrolled)	Many students drop out of class. Also, some student are released or transferred to other penitentiaries	New classmates in the middle of the program in order to maximize the slots	The programs are readjusted. The pacing are not followed
Paputol-putol na pag-aaral (Interruptions in the study)	There are weeks that there no classes due to many reasons like: riots, the use of the chapel for more important reasons, etc.	The students forget their previous modules, They lose interest in studying	Poor motivations
Minsan ay may duty sa brigada (They have a workload in the cell)	They are assigned to clean the <i>buyon</i> or comfort room	They are forced to skip the classes	They lag in their studies
Walang gamot pag nagkakasakit (No medicines for sick students)	Most learners (like ordinary inmates) get sick.	They are forced to get absent or to attend the class but do not have full concentration	Disruptions in class.
Mababang pagtingin ng ibang inmates (Low regards by other inmates)	They are looked down. “Kung kelan nakulong, tsaka pa nag-aral. Mga bobo kasi”	Do not get the support from their fellow inmates. They become the butt of jokes	Low morale while studying

The problems of the students are reflective of the jail conditions and socio-political structures in the jails.

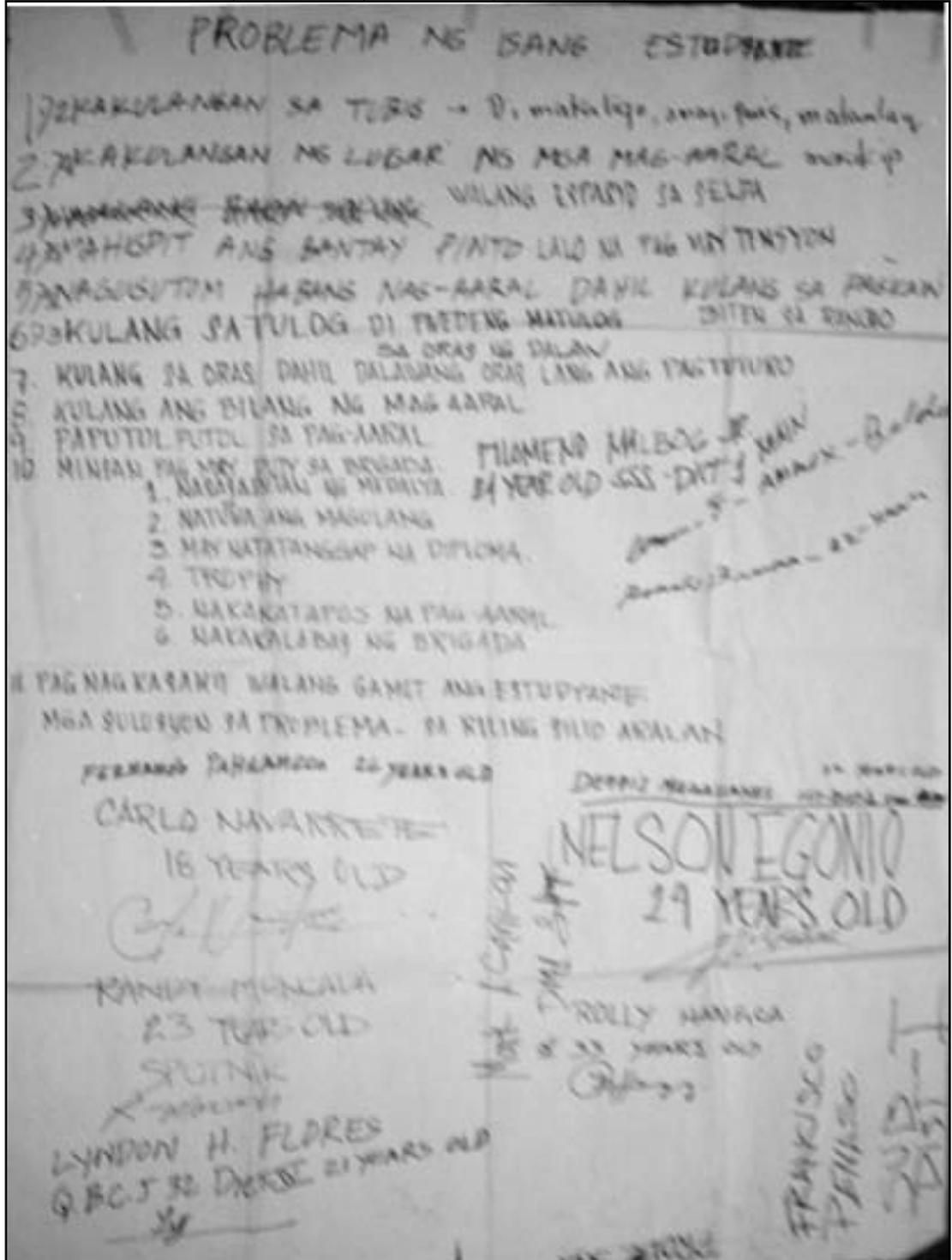
The lack of space and facilities has a far-reaching impact on the effectiveness and quality of the reformation programs. Despite the well-meaning intentions of NGOs and Bureau officers, a considerable restraint on the conduct of the programs was posed by these inadequacies.

The social structures and culture further compound the problems of the inmates. The threats on their security and the discretionary practice of the inmate leaders on the exercise of their powers over their fellow inmates are two main reasons that impede the free flow of the programs. There are instances that even the exams conducted by the Bureau of Non-Formal Education can be temporarily shelved due to “peace and order problems” among the gangs.

On the other, because of lack of manpower, the Bureau officers and NGO’s have to make use of inmate leadership structures. They have to rely on “*district coordinators*” for the recruitment of students, for the continuous attendance of the inmate learners and other administrative concerns. These “*district coordinators*” are appointed by the “*mayores*” of the different “*brigada*”. The *district coordinators* could work only if they are duly authorized by the *mayores*.

The inmate leaders can thus hold the reformation programs hostage. If they wish to make a statement against the warden, they could easily order that all inmates do not attend the reformation programs.

Inmates listing the problems that they encountered in their schooling



Finding Solutions to the Problems of Learners

Methodology

After the different groups presented their answers, they formed a big circle and became a single group. The question: what are the proposed solutions to their problems was posited. A leader wrote down the answers.

Result:

Proposed solutions to the Problem

1. A bigger city jail. This will translate to bigger classrooms and more spacious facility
2. More teachers
3. Adequate and nutritious food
4. Appropriate subjects and practical lessons
5. Coordination with the inmate leaders and custodial officers and appeal for their support

The learners were one in saying that there is a need for a bigger jail facility. As it is, any place for studying had been occupied. Much as they want to study, the custodial needs of the bureau are more prioritized. The learners are afraid that the library that they are using right now may soon be transformed into a cell. (See PRA on sleeping conditions)

The learners also clamor for more teachers. Though they believed that their present instructors are competent and highly dedicated, their number is not sufficient. There are only three of them, two of whom are part time and one full time. They said many more inmates would wish to study, but due to lack of teachers and other problems, they are barred from doing so. There is a regular number of 80-100 learners per batch or merely 3.5% of the inmate population. (100 learners /2800 inmate population)

There is a stronger clamor for adequate and nutritious food. The learners complain that the food served them is not fit to sustain their study needs. Many learners admitted that while answering the questions in the test papers, they cannot even write directly as their hands are trembling out of hunger. (See PRA on food conditions)

They also wish to make the Non-Formal Education truly practical to their needs. Though, theoretically, they are introduced to some concepts like putting up a business and legal rights, they are somewhat unsure if they can apply these concepts in real life. They wish to have a continuing follow-up of their education even if they are released from jail.

They appeal to their *nanunungkulan* and jail custodial officers to be more supportive of their needs. They wish to be given identification cards and, if possible uniforms too, so that they could be exempted from the traditional tasks. They also pray that the inmate leaders and the custodial officers will be more lenient to them while they are outside the cells.

Despite these situations, the Non-Formal Education remains as one of the shining examples of reformation programs in the jail. There is an average of 10 passers in the Equivalency and Accreditation Programs. Many inmates are proud to show their diplomas to their loved ones and kins. Many students who were eventually released visit the jail and express their gratitude to the organizers and instructors of the program. As one instructor eloquently said, “it doesn’t matter if we helped only one or two persons in their quest for a meaningful life, what matters is that we were able to absolve one soul from the cycle of crime.”

Synthesis:

The PRA activities among the learners of the Non-Formal Education is reflective of two things:

One, the Jail reformation efforts are deeply rooted on its physical and structural capabilities.

The limited space and inadequate facilities pose a tremendous restraint on the reformation efforts. The reformation programs can accommodate very few participants. There are little options to complement their educational needs as there are inadequate functional sports, research and library areas that are ideal in an educational setting.

The inmate social structure also has a direct impact on the quality of the reformation programs being implemented. They dictate the presence of learners and the pace of study of the programs.

Two, the success of jail reformation programs is anchored on the “triple alliance” of the Bureau of Jail, the NGO’s and the inmate leadership.

The bureau provides the framework and parameters of the program. The NGOs provide the resources and manpower. The inmate leadership provides the “warm bodies” in the reformation program. Any reformation effort must consider these three aspects in order to make the interventions a positive one.



The inmate learners squatting in the floor while taking their subjects.

PRA activities among the Quezon City Jail inmate medical coordinators

Introduction

The present Quezon City Jail population stands to 3200 inmates whereas its “acceptable” capacity is only 700. The average cell population stands at 120 –140 inmates whereas the “ideal cell capacity” is only 10-20 inmates. There are cells that used to accommodate 40 inmates in 1997 but now houses 130 inmates. The building structure is so designed so as to minimize escape such that there are no ventilation areas.

The budget for medicines for every inmate per year is P56.00. Many inmates who got sick go to the clinic but given with limited, if not empty, supply of medicines.

The jail also has an infirmary with a 16-bed capacity. However, many sick inmates are not accommodated in the infirmary. They stay inside the cells while under treatment.

There is a jail doctor who also serves three other jails. There are three nurses who attend to the needs of the almost three thousand inmates.

Inmates who have emergency cases are brought to the nearest government hospitals like the East Avenue Medical Center. However, there is a need for an order from the court before an inmate can be brought out to a hospital.

There are regular monthly medical missions conducted by the PRESO Foundation in the jail. The PRESO Foundation, headed by Fr. Anthony J. Ranada, solicits help from medical institutions, like the Quezon City Health Department, Acebedo Optical clinic, different pharmaceutical firms and the like. The PRESO FOUNDATION caters to at least 200 inmates every mission. The services rendered include: minor surgery like cyst operations, dental operations, eye check up and free eyeglasses. The inmates are usually given medicines that could last them for at least 21 days.

At present, there is an average of five inmates who die every month in the Quezon City Jail due to different illness. This rate will even become worse as the drive against drug abuse is gaining ground and result to bigger inmate population.

Purpose of the PRA activities:

The purpose of the PRA activities among inmate medical coordinators is threefold:

1. To describe the present medical plight of the inmates
 - a. The common type of diseases
 - b. The ways in which an inmate becomes sick
 - c. The problems that arose in their medical conditions
2. To show how the inmates cope up with their situation

- a. The presence of the medical coordinators
 - b. The mechanism of cell funding for the sick inmates by fellow inmates
3. To depict the overall situation of the Quezon City Jail using as prism the medical conditions of the inmates
- a. The medical conditions as the basis for the creation of a inmate power relations
 - b. The lack of medical attention, facilities and budget translate into punitive penal management
 - c. The failure of medical system in jail as the mirror of the failure of penal management

PRA activities number 1

Description of the work and situation of an inmate medical coordinator

Methodology:

The participants were asked to write down their experiences as medical coordinators. They were asked to describe their work, the problems they encountered, the different kinds of diseases and the mechanisms they evolved to answer the problems. They formed a small circle and were given manila paper and a pentel pen.

Results:

Ang kalagayang medical ng QCJ
The medical condition in the Quezon City Jail

Boy Tambule Dorm 1 Annex Building

“Ang aking karanasan bilang isang coordinator sa medical ay masaya. Ako ay nakakatulong sa aking kapwa. Pero minsan natataranta rin ako lalo na kung grabe ang pasyente tapos pagdating sa clinic ay walang gamot.

One time, nagdala ako ng pasyente na ang sakit ay ulcer, namimilipit na siya sa sakit, pagdating ko sa clinic ay wala ring gamot. Kaya ang ginawa ko ay nagpunta ako sa aking mayor at aming inilabas ang pasyente sa ospital. Salamat na lang at pumayag ang warden na ilabas ang pasyente.

Minsan din naman ay binubuhat ko ang aking pasyente papunta at pabalik sa selda At may pasyente rin akong may T.B. at mahirap painumin ang gamot. Ang gamot ay kanyang itinatago.

At ang mental na pasyente ko ay itinatapon ang gamot at nagagalit po siya sa akin.

I have a happy experience as a medical coordinator. I became helpful to others. However, there are times that I got nervous, especially if my patient is terminally ill and when I go to the clinic, there are no medicines.

One time, I brought a patient who has ulcer, he is in troubling pain and when I brought him to the clinic, there are also no medicines. What I did was to go to the mayor of my cell and we requested to bring the patient to the hospital. Thank God the warden allowed the patient to go to the hospital.

At times, I carry my patient to and fro the clinic. I also had a patient with TB. I had trouble with him because he doesn't like to take the medicines. He hides his medicines. Worst is my mental patient. He throws his medicines and at times he gets angry with me.

Joseph Soriano de Vera
Medical Coordinator Dorm 3, Annex Building

“Marami ang maysakit sa selda naming tulad ng pigsá, bungang araw, bulutong, lagnat, sipon, pero ang pinakadelikado ay ang T.B. First time ko lang naging medical coordinator, nandyan yung sesermunan ka ng intern o nurse ng medical kesyo wag daw pababayaan ang pasyente pero kung hihingi ka ng gamot ay wala naman silang stock, paano gagaling ang pasyente naming? Sometimes moody pa yung iba, mapa-presó, mapa-nurse, pare-parehong masungit. Sa side naman ng nurse, di nila naisip na pag walang pasyente ay wala rin silang trabaho. Marami pa sana akong masasabi kaso walang space. Next time na lang ulit.

There are many who are afflicted with different kinds of sickness in our cells like: boils, bungang-araw, chicken pox, fever and flu, but the most dangerous is TB. It is my first time to be a medical coordinator. There are times that I got sermon from the intern or nurse. They always tell us that we should look after our patients, but if I request medicines from them, they told us it is out of stock. How can our patient get better, if that is the case? There are times too that the other people are moody, they be an inmate or a nurse. They are all hard to get along with. For the nurses, they do not think that when there are no patients, then they will have no jobs. I still want to say something but I got no more space.

Romano Gatmaitan
Medical coordinator Sigue Sigue Commando
Ito ang mga nararanasan namin sa Commando:

1. Paglaganap ng sakit na T.B.
2. Pagdami ng may pigsá dahil sa init ng brigada
3. Minsan ay may namamatay dahil sa kakulangan ng gamot
4. Kung minsan ay kailangang ilabas ang pasyente dahil sa lubha ng sakit pero marami pang kailangang desisyon mula sa judge para makalabas siya kaya madalas ay di na umaabot sa ospital.
5. At higit sa labas kapos sa tubig

These are the things we experience in Commando:

- 1. The spread of TB**
- 2. The growing number of those afflicted with boils because of the hotness in the brigade**
- 3. There are times that a fellow inmate dies due to lack of medicines**
- 4. There are times that a patient should be brought to a hospital due to terminal sickness but it still entails an order from the court before he could be brought out. Sometimes the inmates are already dead before reaching the hospital**
- 5. And most all, lack of water**

Felizardo Dantes

Medical coordinator Batang City Jail

“Dumarami sa amin ang may pigma, kumakalat din ang bungang araw lalo na ang lagnat at ubo. Marami na rin ang buryong sa amin.

1. Palaging walang gamot
2. Sa tuwing nag-rerequest kami ng referral para madala sa ospital ay hindi pwede kahit na emergency
3. Tulad noong nakaraang buwan, may namatay sa amin kasi ang sabi ng nars mahina na raw ang ugat at buto at bukod dun marami ang nagkakasakit sa amin at parati kaming nauubusan ng gamot. Kapag umaakyat ako sa medical clinic ang sabi ay wala na raw silang gamot na maibigay. Kaya ang sabi ko naman sa aking pasyente ay labanan na lang niya ang sakit at tumawag na lang sa taas para gumaling.

“The number of inmates afflicted with boils is growing. There is also a spread of bungang-araw, fever and cough. There are also who become mentally ill.

- 1. There are always no medicines**
- 2. Every time we request for a referral to bring our inmate-patient to the hospital, it is denied, even on cases of emergency**
- 3. Like the other month, I have a patient who died. The nurse diagnosed that the patient had weak veins and bones. They always run out of medicines. That is why, I tell my patient to fight the disease and that he prays to the heavens above so that he gets better.**

Philip Carploat

Medical Coordinator Sigue-sigue Sputnik

Ang problema naming sa Sputnik ay:

1. Pagdami ng pigsaw maliliit
2. Hindi makayanan ang buryon kaya nagkaroon ng mental problem
3. Kakulangan sa gamot
4. Marami rin ang may sirang ngipin na ayaw magpabunot kasi takot
5. Pagdami ng maysakit na T.B.

Our problems in Sputnik are:

- 1. The growing number of inmates with small boils (different form big boils)**
- 2. Inmates cannot cope up with boredom and become mental ill**
- 3. Lack of medicines**
- 4. There are those who have decaying teeth but do not want to undergo dental operation because of fear**
- 5. Increase in TB cases**

Rey Tumacas

Assistant Medical coordinator Dorm 2

1. Pigma (**boils**)
2. Paglaganap ng T.B. (**The spread of TB cases**)
3. Trangkaso, minsan kulang sa gamot (**Fever, sometimes lack of medicines**)
4. Tulala= buryong dahil walang dalaw. (**Preoccupied=bored because no visitor**)
5. Uubo (**cough**)
6. Pagtaas ng blood pressure (**Rise in blood pressure**)
7. bulutong (**chicken pox, measles**)
8. bungang araw

Manuel Castillo

Medical Coordinator Dorm 5

Ang kondisyon namin sa selda ay:

1. Ang pinakamaraming sakit rito ay pigma
2. Sumusunod rito bungang araw at mga maliliit na mga bukol. Ito ay sanhi sa init.
3. Kulang sa ventilation kaya ganoon.
4. Ang mga may T.B.
5. Mangilan-ilan na rin ang pumapanaw sa atake
6. kakulangan sa tubig
7. Ang iba nito ay sipon, ubo at mga sakit na karaniwang nakukuha sa init at meron ding may asthma o hika.

Our conditions in the cell:

- 1. The most number of sickness is boils**
- 2. Second is bungang-araw at small boils. This is because of the humid atmosphere in the cell.**
- 3. There is lack of ventilation**
- 4. There are those afflicted with TB**
- 5. There are inmates who died because of heart attack**
- 6. Lack of water**
- 7. There are those with flu, cough and asthma because of heat**

The medical coordinators are one in saying that their job is a crucial one. They are the link of the BJMP medical officers to the sickly inmates. This is because, seldom would a medical officer visit the cells.

The job of medical coordinators includes:

1. Identifying the sick inmates
2. Bringing the sick inmates to the clinic for check up
3. Making sure that the medications of the patients are on followed on schedule
4. Coordinating with the cell *nanunungkulan* in periods when the cell has to provide for additional medicines
5. Instilling hygiene among fellow inmates by keeping them clean (*magpaligo lalo na ang mga nababaliw*)
6. Preparing the list of inmates who would be given medical treatment during medical missions
7. Taking custody of and disbursing the medicines for future use among the inmates

How medical coordinators are appointed:

Medical coordinators are appointed through the following process:

1. The cell/brigade leader selects an inmate to be the medical coordinator.
2. The selected inmate shall present himself to the NGO's like the Religious of the Virgin Mary(RVM) and the *Sambayanang Makadiyos* for confirmation.
3. The confirmed inmate shall present himself to medical section for recognition.
4. If all the parties agreed that the inmate becomes the medical coordinator, then said inmate is officially appointed to the position.

Privilege of a medical coordinator:

1. The medical coordinators can go out of the cells anytime. They are exempted on cells duties and padlock hours. They are considered as officers of the cells.
2. The medical coordinators have a weekly remuneration of P50.00 (For annex building or non-gang members only)
3. The medical coordinators have the privilege to be the first priority recipients in times of *palakad* (food) from NGO's. (See PRA activities on Food Conditions)

Medical coordinators writing down their impressions on the medical conditions of the inmates



(PRA activities number 1)

PRA activities number 2

Listing, classifying and describing the different diseases of inmates in jail

Methodology

The participants read their answers in PRA activities number 1. Then, they listed the common diseases that they identified. After which, they rated which among these diseases have tremendous affects to the lives of the inmates. A group leader facilitated the rating that they gave.

After rating all the diseases, they leader read their answers. There were some objections from participants. They integrated the changes until finally every opinion was accommodated.

Result:

OBSERBASYON SA USAPING PANGKALUSUGAN NG MGA DETINIDO NG QCJ.

Observations on the medical conditions of detainees in Quezon City Jail

Diseases	How widespread?	How dangerous?	Death record	How communicable?	How difficult to treat?
1. T.B.	♥♥♥♥♥ 5	Xxxxxxxxxx 10	†	♣♣♣♣ 4	*****7
2. Ubo	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 8	Xx 2		♣♣ 2	** 2
3. Sipon	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 8	Xx 2		♣♣ 2	** 2
4. Dehydration	♥♥♥ 3	Xxxxxxxx 8	†		***** 5
5. Ulcer	♥♥♥♥♥♥ 6	Xxxxxx 6	†		***** 6
6. Bungang-araw	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 10	X 1			** 2
7. Pigsang (Pigsang Dapa)	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 9	Xxxx 4		♣ 1	**** 4
8. Bulutong	♥♥ 2	X 1		♣♣♣♣♣♣ 5	* 1
9. Hika (asthma)	♥♥♥♥♥ 5	Xxxxxxx 7			***** 10
10. Rayuma	♥♥♥♥ 4	X 1			*** 3
11. Highblood	♥♥♥ 3	Xxxxxxxxxxxxxx 12	†		**** 4
12. Lagnat	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 7	Xxxx 4		♣ 1	* 2
13. Mental disorder	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 9	X 1			***** 8
14. Rumborumbo	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 9	X 1		♣♣♣♣ 4	** 2
15. Buni (buning-bato)	♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 6	X 1		♣ 1	** 2
16. Mammaso	♥ 1	X 1			* 1
17. Arthritis	♥♥ 2	X 1			*** 3
18. Manas	♥ 1	Xxxxxxx 7	†		*** 3
19. Pagkalumpo	♥♥ 2	Xxxx 4			*** 3
20. Mildstroke	♥♥♥ 3	Xxxxxxxxxxxx 10			***** 6
21. Tulo	♥ 1	Xxxxxx 6		♣ 1	** 2
22. Galis aso	♥♥♥♥♥♥ 5	X 1		♣ 1	* 1
23. Appendix	♥♥♥ 3	Xxxxxxxxxxxxxx 11	†		**** 4

The top diseases that have afflicted the inmates are:

1. Bungang-araw ♥10 points
2. Pigma ♥9 points
3. Mental disorder (buryong) ♥9 points
4. Ubo ♥8 points
5. Sipon ♥8 points

According to the medical coordinators, almost all inmates experience this illness in their stay in jail. More than half of the inmates are suffering from *Bungang araw* and *Pigma* or boils. This is because of poor ventilation and lack of water. Some inmates take a bath only once a week.

The mental disorder or *buryong* is a silent mental disease. Inmates who laugh at themselves, or those who said, “*may bumubulong sa isip*”(someone is whispering) are considered *buryong*. It is a fleeting experience. It comes and it goes. “*Bigla na lang lumulutang ang pagkaburyong*”.

Ubo (Cough) and sipon (flu) are widespread but the medical coordinators said they can easily deal with it. Actually, even without medication, the inmates can eventually get well. However, there were cases when cough deteriorates and becomes TB.

The disease which the inmates consider to be “*delikado*” or dangerous

1. Highblood x 12 points
2. Appendicitis x 11 points
3. TB x 10 points
4. Mild stroke x 10 points
5. Dehydration x 8 points

These diseases are considered dangerous because their impact can lead to death and paralysis. High blood is dangerous especially to old and less active inmates. The suffocating environment and the lack of ventilation are common reasons why inmates succumbed to high blood pressure. Related to high blood is mild stroke. There are some inmates who had their half body paralyzed while in jail. There are those who can no longer speak and walk.

Appendicitis is also a dreaded disease because when it strikes, it only takes a few hours before the poison spreads to the body. Unfortunately, the patient cannot immediately take medical attention and cannot be brought to the hospital. It needs a court order before doing so. The patients usually succumb before seeing the doctor.

The inmates also dread TB because of its communicability and difficulty of treatment. It usually takes months before inmates can fully recover.

Due to lack of potable water, some inmates succumb to dehydration. This is dreaded disease because it could lead to death of the patients.

The diseases that have the history of killing patients are:

1. TB (Tuberculosis)
2. Dehydration
3. Ulcer
4. High blood
5. *Manas* (Swelling of the body)
6. Appendix (Appendicitis)

There is an average of five deaths per month in the jail. The most common culprit is high blood. This is usually induced because of suffocation. Those with weak lungs cannot withstand the heat and smell coming from the cooking area. The very limited area couples this: the inmates cannot move around, they cannot even stretch their bodies. They just sit in one position the whole day. (This is especially true in Annex Building.)

Manas is a form of disease where parts of the body swells. The inmates say it may be related to beriberi. An inmate from *Sputnik* experienced a *manas* on his feet and face weeks before the PRA activities. The medical coordinator said the inmate succumbed two days after. The inmates attribute *manas* from the lack of nutrients of the food that they eat.

There are also cases of ulcer killing the inmates. This is especially true among those who rely on o the “*rancho*” or food rationed out by the jail officers. They complain that their rations are not enough. It is only good for one meal. (see PRA on food conditions)

According to the inmates, the most communicable diseases are:

1. Bulutong ♣ 5 points
2. Rumbo-rumbo ♣ 4 points
3. TB ♣ 4 points

Bulutong and *rumbo-rumbo* or small boils are skin diseases that can easily be transmitted. When inmates sleep, they sleep side by side each other. They are easily in contact. (See PRA on sleeping conditions)

TB can be transmitted by air contact. Since the area is not ventilated, the air goes round and round the cell. The plate, spoon and fork are usually shared by everyone even those afflicted with TB. Those who had TB also share the same sleeping area with the more healthy inmates.

The diseases that are most difficult to treat are following:

1. Hika o Asthma *10 points
2. Mental disorder *8 points
3. TB *7 points
4. Ulcer *6 points
5. Mild stroke *6 points

The reasons why these diseases are difficult to treat are: the medicines are expensive and the medical sections is almost always lacking in stock of medicines. The inmates cannot sustain a month-long prescription of the said drugs.

Mental disorder is difficult to treat because of the environment. The over crowdedness, the people walking, the mental fatigue of the case, the family problems, etc. are contributory to the factors for the deterioration of *buryong*.

All in all, using the different indicators, Tuberculosis has the most debilitating effect on the inmates. Inmates become conscious on who among their cellmates may have acquired TB and they try not to go near a person with TB. It usually takes months or long period of time before an inmate with TB can recover. And it drains the resources of the cell to sustain the medical needs of the inmates afflicted with TB.

This has also become one of the reasons of conflict among the cells. The cells would not accept a newly committed inmate who is apparently afflicted with sickness, and especially if the affliction is TB. They would do everything possible so that they would not become the "*bagsakan ng mga walang kwentang komit*". These are the commits that won't benefit the cell. This is so as a portion of the budget generated by the cell's treasurer is strictly allotted for medicines of the sick inmates. The cells are "obliged" to shell out funds for their sick inmates. Failure of the officers to do so may become a ground for their removal from position. According to the medical coordinators, the weekly expenses of the cell for the maintenance of the sick inmates cost around P100-150. However, if the sick inmates are afflicted with TB and other "expensive" sickness or "*mahal na sakit*", it costs the cell at least P500 per week. This is a drain in the cell's resources.

PRA activities number 3
Listing and rating the reasons why inmates get sick

Methodology

After the medical coordinators identified the different kinds of diseases, they were asked to list down all the reasons why their fellow inmates get sick. Based on their experiences, they were asked to rate which among these reasons were the most prevalent.

Result:

**MGA DAHILAN NG PAGKAKASAKIT NG MGA DETENIDO
 (Why detainees get sick)**

Reasons	Prevalence
1. Galing sa maruming presinto Coming from a dirty police precinct	☺☺☺☺ 4
2. Over-congestion	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
3. Hindi naliligo Not taking a bath	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 6
4. Kakulangan sa tubig Lack of water	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
5. Nagsusuot ng maruming damit Wearing dirty cloths	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 6
6. Walang sabong pampaligo at panlaba sa damit No soap for taking a bath and washing of cloths	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 6
7. Kulang sa sustansya ang pagkain Food lacks nutrients	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
8. Ampaw ang pagkain Food prepared haphazardly	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
9. May ipis, langaw at iba pang dumi kang makikita sa kanin at ulam kung minsan There cockroaches, flies, and other dirt found in the food	☺☺ 2
10. Marumi ang paligid Dirty surroundings	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
11. Walang fresh-air No fresh air	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 7
12. Kulang sa tulog (mga walang tulugan) Lack of sleep	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
13. Kulang sa exercise Lack of exercise	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
14. Matutulog sa sementong malamig Sleeping in a cold cement	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10
15. Maruming tubig Dirty water	☺☺☺☺ 3
16. Late kung dumating ang pagkain Food comes late	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 8
17. Marami ang naninigarilyo There are many who smoke	☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ 10

18. Sobrang tulog (sa mga may kubol) Oversleeping	☺ ☺ ☺	3
19. Dahil sa problema sa kaso Problems in the cases	☺ ☺ ☺	3
20. Torture sa pulis Police Torture	☺ ☺ ☺	3
21. Hiramang gamit Borrowing of things	☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	5
22. Hindi nabibilad ang katawan sa init ng araw o hindi pinagpapawisan No sunning	☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	4
23. Paggamit ng bayarang babae Used of paid girls	☺ ☺ ☺	3
24. Natutulog na nauulanan Sleeping under the rain	☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	10

There are four major reasons why inmates contract diseases. These are:

1. Facilities. (See Related Livelihood PRA)
 - a. Over congestion inside the cells ☺ 10 points
 - b. No fresh air inside the cell ☺ 7 points
 - c. No place for exercise ☺ 10 points
 - d. No sunning area ☺ 4 points

31 points
2. Sleeping conditions (See PRA on Sleeping Conditions)
 - a. Lack of sleep ☺ 10 points
 - b. Sleeping in a cold cement ☺ 10 points
 - c. Oversleeping (for inmates who have their own *kubol*) ☺ 3 points
 - d. Sleeping under the rain ☺ 10 points

33 points
3. Food conditions (See PRA on Food Conditions)
 - e. Food lacks nutrients ☺ 10 points
 - f. Food prepared haphazardly ☺ 10 points
 - g. There are cockroaches found in the food ☺ 2 points
 - h. Food comes late ☺ 8 points

30 points
4. Water conditions
 - a. Not taking a bath ☺ 6 points
 - b. Lack of potable water ☺ 10 points
 - c. Dirty water (sometimes there is a problem in the drainage) ☺ 3 points

19 points

Another cause of sickness are human-made. This include:

- a. Coming from a dirty police precinct ☺ 4 points
- b. Dirty surroundings ☺ 10 points
- c. Wearing dirty clothes ☺ 6 points
- d. No soap for taking a bath and washing clothes ☺ 6 points
- e. There are many who smoke ☺ 10 points
- f. Problems in the cases (for mental patients) ☺ 3 points
- g. Police torture ☺ 3 points

- h. Borrowing of things
- i. Use of paid girls

☺ 5 points

☺ 3 points

50 points

The medical coordinators said that it is their basic condition that is causing a lot of their fellow inmates succumbed to sickness. As one inmate asked: *“Paano mabuhay ang isang inmate na nakaupo sa isang sulok buong araw, hindi siya makalabas sa selda dahil walang dalaw, tapos walang matulugan at mapaghingahan kasi walang sariling tarima, tapos kakarampot ang pagkain ang dumarating. Dagdagan mo pa: wala siyang dalaw kaya walang nagbibigay ng damit, tapos mabagal ang takbo ng kaso, at mababalitaan pa niya ang kanyang asawa ay sumama na sa iba. Ano ang magiging kalagayan ng inmate na iyan?”*

How will an inmate be if he sits in the corner of the cell for a whole day, and he cannot go out of the cell because he has no visitor, then he doesn't have his own sleeping bed to rest. He also has little food to eat. Add to this: he has no visitors to supply him his clothes and his case turns so slowly and then he hears a news that his wife left for another man. What will be the condition of the said inmate?

Among the basic conditions, they said the sleeping condition is the number reason why inmates are getting sick. This is followed by lack of facilities, the deteriorating food and water conditions.

However, there are also sicknesses that are product of human neglect or indiscretions. For example, medical coordinators complain that many inmates come from the police precincts hardly beaten. Many of them are committed in jail still on crutches. (See PRA activities on the practices of police) There are also those who smoke heavily inside the cells and are oblivious that many inmates have weak lungs. Also, the practice of allowing paid girls or *“babaeng bayaran”* has been the reason identified for the rise of sexually transmitted cases like *“tulo”*. This is especially through among members of the chinese community in the jail.

MGA DAHILAN NG PAGKAKASAKIT NG MGA DETENIDO

1. GALING SA MARUMING PRESENTO 4
2. OVER CONGESTION/ CONGESTION 10
3. HINDI PALILIGO 6
4. KAKULANGAN SA TUBIG 10
5. PAGESUSUOT NG MARUMING DAMIT 6
6. WALANG SABONG BAMPALIGO AT PAN-LABA SA DAMIT. 6
7. KULANG SA SUSTANSYA ANG PAGKAIN 10
8. AMPAY ANG PAGKAIN 10
9. MAY IPIS, LANGAW AT IBA PANG DUMI KUNG ITAKIKITA SA KANIN AT ULAM KUNG MINSAN 2
10. MARUMI ANG PALIGID 10
11. WALANG FRESH-AIR 7
12. KULANG SA TULOG, EXERCISE AT PATUTULOG SA SEMITONG MALAMIG. 10
13. MARUMING TUBIG 3
14. KULANG ANG PAGKAIN, LATE PA KUNG DUMATING. 8
15. MARAMI ANG NANINIGARILYO 10
16. SOBRANG PAGTULOG SA MAY MGA KUBOL. 3
17. DAHIL SA PROBLEMA SA KASO, TUR-TURE NG MGA PULIS. 3
18. HIRAMAN NG GAMIT. 5
19. HINDI NABIBILAD ANG KATAWAN SA INIT NG ARAWO HINDI PINAG PAPAIVISAN. 3
20. PAGGAMIT NG BOYARANG BABAE 3
21. PATUTULOG NA PAWLAPAN 10

JOSEPH BEVERA 25 Y/O DM

WILSON BAYLON - GDC

DE TAVAS, DM-2

ANGELITA BAYLON - DM

CARLO MANABATE 9/21

TAMBULE IC.

Fernando Baylona Jr. DM

Louie Marino DM

(PRA activities number 3)

PRA Activities number 4:
Identifying the problems of the medical section

Methodology

After the inmates identified the reasons why there arose different kinds of diseases, they were asked to enumerate all the problems that are associated with the medical section. All the medical coordinators shared their experiences and a group leader wrote the common answers. Then they explained the answers.

The results:

MGA PUNA SA MEDICAL NG Q.C.J.
Comments on the medical section of the Quezon City Jail

1. Kakulangan ng gamot
Lack of medicines

The medical coordinators said that most of the time, the clinic is out of stock of medicines. They usually bring their patients to the clinic; have them diagnosed and only to be given a “*reseta*” or medication. It is up for the inmates on where to get the medicines. Usually, if the medicines are not that costly, the *mayor* of the cell shoulders the amount. Also, if the budget of the cell is tight, they only buy one or two pieces of the tablets required just so ease the pain on a particular day. Then they will pray that the sickness would not reoccur the following day.

For the more affluent inmates, they can buy their own medicines. They can request the *purchasers* to buy medicines for them from the nearest drugstore.

2. Kakulangan ng doctor
Lack of doctors

There is only one doctor who attends to the needs of the almost three thousand inmates. More so, the same doctor also attends to the needs of other jails. The doctor stays in the Quezon City Jail for a maximum of three days a week.

Because of the lack of jail doctors, the more affluent inmates can easily request for an order from the court to be checked up by their own physician. This can be done when the jail doctor makes a referral to the court. The lawyer of the inmate will file for a medical pass. If the court so approves, the inmates can go out of the jail. This process of referring, filing and approving usually takes at least a week.

On the other hand, this is an additional function for the escort section of the jail. Since there are only very few available escort officers, the priority will be those who have court hearings for the day. The inmates have to find a willing officer who could escort him out. The inmates must have a “*kadikit*” or close friends among the guards. This is usually in consideration of “*matik*” or grease money.

When an inmate is out for medical check up, he can stay for the whole day outside of jail. When the check up is done, he can go home and visit some relatives. Of course, this will be subjected to the *matik* given to jail officers. The rule of the thumb, however, is that inmates must be within the confines of the jail before the 11 pm headcount.

However, some inmates have abused this practice. They can play sick to the medical section and then they get a referral. Then they befriend their escorts and after getting their escort's trust and confidence, they escape.

3. Kakulangan sa medical equipment

Lack of medical equipment

The medical coordinators also complain of the lack of medical equipment. There may be jail dentists who visit the jail; unfortunately, they cannot perform dental operations due to the absence of dental facilities. The infirmary section also lacks basic medical equipment like functioning medical beds.

4. Hindi nabibigyan ng sapat na atensyon ang mga pasyente

The patients are not given medical attention

The medical coordinators also complain that their patients are not given proper medical attention. If the inmates do not complain of their sickness, or worse, if the inmates do not know that they had been afflicted with certain kind of diseases, then they will not be paid attention.

Also, there are times that when the sick inmates are already brought to the clinic for check up. Since the clinic is very limited, and does not have any bedding, the sick inmates have to lie in the floor while waiting for his turn. Though the nurses try to attend to all the needs of the sick inmates, they cannot cope up with the sheer volume of the patients.

5. Masungit ang ilan sa mga medical personnel

Some medical personnel are hard to deal with

The medical coordinators also reported that some, not all, medical personnel are hard to deal with. This is especially true, if after bringing a lot of patients to the clinic, more patients follow.

6. Laging padlock ang gate kaya't hindi agad makahingi ng saklolo (lalo na sa mga pangkat)

The cell gate is always locked that is why it is hard to get emergency assistance (this is especially true among gang members)

The custodial functions of the bureau necessitate a controlled movement for the inmates. The inmates are supposed to be inside their cells after the 11 pm headcount. Especially in periods when there are strong animosities among the *pangkat* or gangs, the cells must be padlocked.

However, due to the over crowdedness of the cell, many inmates experience stroke in the middle of the night. The *mahinarya* should always be on the look out on who among the inmates can be a possible candidate. If there are cases of attack, he must immediately inform the medical coordinator of the cell.

The medical coordinator immediately requests for the keys of the *brigada*. This usually takes time. Unfortunately, there are some who are already dead upon arrival in the clinic.

Worse, there are some inmates who perform first aid the wrong way. Instead of reviving the inmate, they practically aided their fellow inmates demise.

7. Nanghihingi ng court order kahit na nasa critical na kondisyon

It still needs an order from the court even if the inmate is already in a critical condition

The medical coordinators also noted that there were instances that even if the inmates are already in so much pain, they cannot be brought immediately to the hospital. The jail officers are wary to bring out an inmate to the hospital without a court order. The reason for this is that “*ayaw nila maputukan kung may bulilyaso*”. They do not want to be blamed when problems arise. Bringing an inmate outside of jail, which results to the escape of the inmate, would easily translate to administrative chargers or worst dismissal from service.

8. Walang sariling sasakyan at driver ang medical/clinic

The medical section do not have its own transportation service and driver

9. Nagmamadaling bumalik ang escort galing hospital kahit hindi pa ayos ang pasyente

The escort brings back the patient immediately to the jail even if the patient has not been fully recovered

10. Kakulangan ng escort na magdadala sa mga maysakit.

Lack of escort in bringing the patient to the hospital

The medical coordinators also declare that even if the warden so approve to send the inmate to the hospital and with the proper court order, still, the inmate may not be brought after all. This is because the medical section does not have it own transportation service to do so. Also, they still have to look for an available escort as every escort must have been designated their individual assignments.

In order to cope with this situation, there arose the “*pamasahe* system”. If after much pleading, an employee (even if not an escort officer) finally volunteered to work over time (since it is already beyond their duty and without compensation), that said employee will bring the sick inmate to the hospital. In so doing, he will be paying from his own pocket the transportation and other expenses of the sick inmate. Added to this are the attendant risks of escape and rescue operations from the friends of the sick inmate.

That is why for more “security conscious” personnel, they bring the inmate immediately to the jail even if the results of the medical exams are not yet released. There are times too that even if the findings of the doctors in the hospital say that the inmate should be confined, they cannot do so because that would mean over-extending their services. They will also be staying overnight, without a reliever, and such a tremendous escape risk.

Due to these circumstances, a symbiotic relationship arises between the inmate leaders and the jail employees. The *mayores* will ask the assistance of the jail guards in looking after their sick fellow inmate and will consider it as a big favor. In return, the jail guard will be asking the *mayores* of the cell for “*pamasahe*” or fare in order to reimburse his expenses and to generate additional income. This continually happens until a jail guard will be considered the *padrino* of a particular inmate group or *pusong pangkat*. (His heart belongs to the gang). In return the jail guard will get the continued support and patronage of the *pangkat* or gang.

This practice is also done in the follow up of cases and other favors asked by the inmates. Thus *pamasahe* has become synonymous to a good working relationship among jail guards and inmates. (This is in contrast with *matik* which is more graft prone)

There used to be an ambulance donated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstake Office. However, this ambulance also doubles up as an escort van and is used to bring inmates in the court for hearing.

11. Maling gamot ang naibibigay sa mga maysakit, minsan ay expired pa.

Sometimes, the medicine given is not appropriate; at times too, it is already expired

The medical coordinators notice that if their patient is afflicted with headache, the patients were given paracetamol. If the patient is afflicted with influenza and flu, still paracetamol. Even if the patient is reeling with tremendous pain like appendicitis, they are still given paracetamol. This is because paracetamol is the only available medicine.

Also, there are donor companies which shell out medicines just near or very near their expiration term. Many inmates are wary to take the medicines because they take the medicines one to two months after the expiration date. (The volunteer doctors explained to the medical coordinators that medicines are still viable even two months after the expiration. However, the medical coordinators are hard put in explaining that concept to their fellow inmates).

12. Hindi ginagamot hangga't hindi malala ang sakit
Patients are not treated until the sickness has become worse

The medical coordinators reported that the priority are those patients who shown sign of failing health. Patients who still can walk around and could still be considered “healthy” are not on the priority list. This is because the clinic cannot accommodate all sick inmates.

Only after the inmate can no longer support himself or whose health conditions deteriorated badly will he be given attention.

The medical coordinators determining the problems of the medical section of the jail

MGA PUNA SA MEDICAL
NG Q.C.J.

1. KAKULANGAN NG GAMOT/GAMIT AT DOCTOR
2. KAKULANGAN NG MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
3. HINDI NABIBIGYAN NG SAPAT NA ATENSYON.
4. MASUNGIT ANG MGA ILAN NA MEDICAL PERSONNEL
5. LAGING PAD LOCK ANG GATE KAYAT HINDI AGAD MAKAHINGI NG SAKLOLO. SA MAY PANG-KAT.
6. NANGHIHINGI NG COURT ORDER KAHIT NA NASA KRITIKAL NA KONDISYON
7. WALANG SARILING SASAKYAN AT DRIVER ANG MEDICAL / CLINIC
8. MALING GAMOT ANG NABIBIGAY SA MAY SAKIT. KUNG MINSAN EXPIRED PA
9. HINDI GINAGABIOT HANGSAH HINDI MALALA ANG SAKIT.
10. NAGMAMADALING BUMALIK ANG ESCORT GAWING HEDYA KAHIT HINDI PA (TAPON) (ANG) AYOS ANG PASYENTE.
11. KADALASAN WALANG PERSONNEL SA CLINIC
12. KAKULANGAN SA ESCORT.

DAMBALAN I.C.D. - FRANCIS ERIC BARRERA
Paul, Shing, Pawan
Dana
Francis Eric Barrera
GABLO HANAY
10/11/17

B WINDSOR TRAYED J

(PRA number 4)

PRA activities number 5

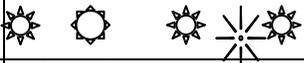
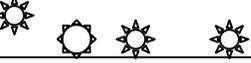
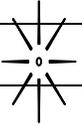
Finding solutions to the problems of the medical section

Methodology

After identifying the problems of the medical section, participants proposed solutions to their problems. Then they rated which among these proposals are achievable in the short term. They also categorized a proposal which will be done hopefully in the future.

Result

Ang solusyon sa aming kapalaran
Solutions to our fate

Proposal	Magagawa agad Achievable in the short term	“Wish ko lang” Wish it will happen
Mas malaking City Jail. A bigger city jail		 5
Mas malalaking selda Bigger cells		 4
Ihiwalay ang mga maysakit Separate cell for the sick	 3	
Dagdag na libreng gamot More free medicines	 4	
Itigila ang pananakit sa presinto Do away with torture in the police precincts	 2	
Dagdag na medical personnel More medical personnel	1  	 1
Dagdag na pang-unawa sa inmate More understanding to the inmate	1 	
Mas marami at mas masustansyang pagkain Improved quality and quantity of food	3 	
Lugar na matutulugan A place for sleeping	3 	
Ayusin ang panakbo sa kulungan Run the jail efficiently	1 	

The proposals of the medical coordinators can be classified into two categories:

Facilities:

- Bigger city jail 5 points
- Bigger cells 4 points
- Separate cells for the sick 3 points
- A place for sleeping 3 points

Programs:

- More free medicines 4 points
- Do away with torture in the precincts 2 points
- More medical personnel 2 points

More understanding to the inmate	1 point
Improved quantity and quality of food	3 points
Run the jail efficiently	1 point

The medical coordinators ultimate solution to their problem is the call for a new Quezon City Jail. They wish to live the hellhole. A bigger jail will translate to bigger cells and more ventilated areas. They will to have a sunning area where they can stretch their bodies. They also dream of a more spacious area to jog around. *Kailangan ng lugar na mapag jogging-an* a participant remarked.

The coordinators also would like to have a medical program. There must be a way to separate the sickly from the healthy. Then there should be continuous medication for the sickly.

They also request that jail hospital be created. This hospital is to be manned by BJMP personnel. This hospital will treat the sickly inmates, such that there would be no need for escorts staying in the hospital. This will free the escort of the additional burden.

They pray for understanding on the plight of the inmates. They are dying inside the cells. There are five deaths per month. An inmate was accused for stealing a pair of sleepers. He died after staying in jail for three months.



A medical coordinator is attending to a sick inmate afflicted with boils

Synthesis:

The PRA activities on the medical conditions of the inmates is instructive of three things:

One, the jail does not have the attendant capability to meet the medical demands of its wards. The facilities are inadequate, the personnel insufficient and the medicines lacking. As such there is tremendous restraint on the capacity of the medical section to deliver the basic services to the inmates.

Two, due to this basic limitation, the jail evolved a structure and mechanism to sustain the collapsing system. The lack of personnel resulted in to the creation of inmate medical coordinators. The lack of budget resulted to the “**pamasahe** system” and other forms of financial give and take. These structures were tacitly accepted, though formally denied. The BJMP Manual strictly prohibits any form of solicitations from the inmates, much more employing the inmates to augment the jail administrative capability. But if they follow strictly their own Manual, and the BJMP does away with the inmate medical coordinators and financial assistance, the whole structure will collapse.

Three, due to these emerging structures, a unique culture emerged. The *mayores* and the medical coordinators, being the gate keepers, can play gods in their little fiefdoms. It is unto their discretion whom to bring to the medical section. It is unto their best judgment on who should be deserving of financial help. As such, it pays for the inmates to always follow the rules of the *mayores* and the medical coordinators without question. They should always be at the good graces of the *nanunungkulan*. Falling from their graces may mean death especially if one succumbed to sickness which is a very tangible possibility. This structure has at times resulted to unrestrained abuses, especially if the *nanunungkulan* and the jail guards use their official functions the wrong way. An inmate leader may be given regular monthly medical referral by medical officers, even if the said inmate leader is not at all sickly, just so he could get out of the jail once in a while. A sickly inmate, who deserves to be brought to the hospital, remains waiting for some escorts to be free of their functions. He is but a poor inmate and does not have any capability to shed out “*pamasahe*.” The jail officers will use all the legal remedies to reason them out of not escorting him.

Eventually, this leads to the corruption of jail priorities and standards. The jail officers function just so to keep the system moving but without direction. The priorities of different units are incongruent to each other. Programs are determined not on long term basis but rather on the pressing concerns of the day. Ultimately, the system fails.

PRA activities to the Quezon City Jail Members of the Livelihood Section

Introduction

One of the avowed missions of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology is the rehabilitation of inmates while in custody. It is their mission to “prepare them for their eventual release from jail as a productive and law abiding citizens.”

The Rehabilitation Section is the key unit of the Bureau that supervises and implements such task. The Rehab Section-QCJ has implemented different livelihood programs, tapping the talents of the inmates. The kind of products evolves from time to time and depending on the talents of the resident-inmates. There were periods when the number of the livelihood workers was considered “plenty” and there are periods when they are very “few”, compared to the total population. Also, the volume of the products produced by the livelihood workers varies and so is the absorbing capacity of the market.

The NGO’s, through the PRESO Foundation had been the main provider of the raw materials in the livelihood section. Through the NGO’s, market of the livelihood products were promoted.

The Bureau considers the livelihood projects as its flagship program for reformation of the inmates. The inmates’ products are usually exhibited on special occasions of the Bureau.

At the time of the study, however, there was a drastic change in the situation of the livelihood workers. The floor area of their place work was reduced to almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of its original size. The present members of the livelihood area have difficulties coping up with their new situation.

Purpose of the PRA activities:

The purpose of the PRA activities is three fold:

1. To portray the present state of the Livelihood programs
 - a. The motivations of joining the program
 - b. The present plight of the workers
2. To bring the problems of the livelihood workers to jail authorities
 - a. The impact of their very limited space
 - b. The proposed solutions to their problems
3. To portray the conditions of the inmates in the Quezon City Jail using as prism the plight of the livelihood workers
 - a. The impact of their conditions to the attainment of the reformation efforts of the Bureau.
 - b. The worker’s concern vis-à-vis the power structures and culture in the jail.

PRA activities number 1

Motivations of joining the livelihood section

Methodology

There were 5 participants who joined this activity. They formed a circle and were given a cartolina and pentel pen to write on. They were asked to scribble down the reasons they joined the livelihood program.

Result:

“Ako si Oscar Teves. Kaya ako naglilivelihood ay upang matugunan ang aking pangangailangan ng kagaya kong walang dalaw at upang ako ay makakatulong sa magiging dalaw. Ibig sabihin ang dumadalaw sa akin ay walang sapat na hanapuhay sa labas kaya minabuti sumali sa livelihood pari di maging pabigat. Pangalawa ang livelihood ay isang pribilihiyo saming mga detenido”

I am oscar Teves. The reason I joined the livelihood program is to support my needs and so that I won't be a burden to my visitors. Livelihood program is also a privilege for me.

“Ako si Jeremias Epa. Ang mga dahilan ko kung bakit ako sumasanib sa livelihood section ay ang mga sumusunod:

1. Para mawala ang buryong sa Quezon City Jail
2. Matuto ng paggawa ng mga basket at ano pa mang mga bagay para pagkakakitaan ng pera at para paglaya ay mapagkakakitaan din habang nasa bahay at ako ay walang ginagawa.
3. Tulad ko, ako ay matanda na hindi na matatanggap sa kumpanya. Sa nututunan ko rito sa livelihood, pwede na sa loob ng bahay ako gumawa at wala pang amo. Kung ako ay mapagod ay madaling magpahinga.

I am Jeremias Epa. The reasons why I joined the livelihood section are the following:

1. **To ease my boredom**
2. **To learn how to make baskets and other things in order to generate income so that when I am released from jail I can generate income while I'm in the house and doing nothing.**
3. **I am already old, there will no longer be companies that will employ me. With the things I learned from the livelihood, I can work inside my house and I do not have an employer. If I feel tired, I can easily take a rest.**

Ako si Lito Matricio. Kaya ako sumali sa livelihood ay dahil sa mga sumusunod:

1. Maalis ang pagkainep
2. Hindi makapag-isip ng problema sa labas
3. Matutunan ang gawaing livelihood
4. Matugunan ang mga pangangailangan sa sarili

I am Lito Matricio. The reasons I joined the livelihood are the following

- 1. To ease my boredom**
- 2. So as not to think of the problems outside the jail**
- 3. To learn the activities in the livelihood**
- 4. To generate income for my personal needs**

“Ako po si Loreto Mopal. Ako ay sumali sa livelihood para malibang o hindi mainip, habang hinihintay matapos ang aking kaso. At kumita din ng kaunting pera para makatulong sa pang-araw-araw na gastos at pangangailangan.

I am Loreto Mopal. I joined the livelihood as a form of recreation and not to get bored while waiting for the resolution of my case. I also joined in order to generate income for my daily expenses and other needs.

Ako si Louie. Ang mga dahilan ko ay sumusunod:

1. Para may mapagkakitaan kahit papaano.
2. Para makaiwas ng bisyong hindi maganda: sugal, droga at alak
3. Importanti rin sa mga katulad naming walang dalaw.
4. Isa ring itong programang pangrehabilitasyon sa mga inmates.
5. Para magamit at mapakinabangan namin ang aming mga talento.

I am Louie, the following are my reasons:

- 1. In order to generate income even how little**
- 2. In order to avoid the vices in the jail like: gambling, drugs and drinking wine**
- 3. It is especially important who have no visitors.**
- 4. It one form of rehabilitation to the inmates**
- 5. In order to make use and maximize the talents**

The members of the livelihood listing down their reasons for working in the livelihood section

NAME: JEREMIAS G. EPA
 DORM: 4 ANNEX BLDG
 H

AND ANG DAHILAN KONG DAKIT
 ARD SUMANID SA LIVELIHOOD

1. PARA MAWALI ANG BUBIDING SA LOOB NG P.C.J.
2. MATOTO NG PAGAWA NG MGA DAKIT AT KONG AND PANG BAGAY PARA PAGKITARAN NG DEBA AT PAG LAYA NG MAPAGKITARI DIN NARANG UREA GANNG WALANG SINAGANA
3. TULAD KO NATANDA NA NINDI NA MATANGAP SA COMPANIA SA NATUTUNAN KO O PALEDE NA SA LOOB NG BANAY NG GUMAGANA AT WALA PANG AND MALAYA KA KONG PAGOD SI MAGPABINGA

LOMIE

PARA MAS PALAKAS KITAAN KAHIT PANDA
 PARA DIN MAKINANS SA MGA DISYOTO NINDI
 MAGANDA : GAGAL, DOKA, ALAK
 IMPORTANTE BIN SA KATULAD NARANG WALANG
 DALAW
 KA BIN ITONG PROGRAMANG MAG BENDI -
 TAYAP NG MGA INMATES.
 PARA MAGAMIT AT MAKINABAWAN NG
 MATAH ANG KANG MGA TALENTO.

LOMIE ABONALES C
 33 YEARS OLD
 1 YEAR & 2 MONTHS IN COIT

[Signature]

LITO MATEO

Sarali ako sa LILI LIHOOD
 dahil sa mga karamdaman.

1. maalis ang pagkainap
2. hindi maka pag isip ng problema sa labas
2. matatunaw ang gamang LILI
4. masupitahan ang itong pangal -
 nga ilangon sa sarali.

Manuelito Estroño
 52 years old
 5-6 years

Committe 1 1/2 year

XKO SI OSCAR TOYES *[Signature]*
 29 years old

kaya ako nag LIVELIHOOD upang maligun-
 nan ang aking mga pangangailangan na
 kagaya kong walang. Dalaw H upang akoy
 makatulong sa magiging Dalaw ibig sabihin
 ang Durad dalaw sa akin ng walang sapant na
 hanap bobay sa labas kaya kinabuti
 kong pomsok sa Livelithood para hi-
 ndi nang gagay hindi maging paligat
 sa magiging Dalaw kundi makatulo-
 ng pangalawa ang Livelithood ay isang
 ptebilhiung sa aming mga Dilihi Da

PRA number 1

PRA activities number 2

Ranking the reason of joining the livelihood

Methodology:

After sharing their individual reasons, a group leader identified the reasons common to all of them and listed it down. After listing, they ranked the reasons that they consider to be the primary ones. They place a flower sign to indicate their most favored answers.

Result:

**“Daan sa Pagbabagong Buhay”
(Way for a Renewed Life)**

Dahilan (Reason)	Most favored reasons
1. Matanggal ang Buryong (To ease the boredom)	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ 15
2. Para kumita sa Pang-araw-araw na gastos (To generate income for daily needs)	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ 15
3. Para maiwasan ang paggamit ng bisyo sa selda (To avoid vices inside the cell)	♣♣♣♣♣ 5
4. Para maiwasan ang gulo sa loob ng selda (To avoid conflict with cellmates)	♣♣♣♣♣ 5
5. Pribilihiyo na bigay sa livelihood worker (Privilege given to livelihood workers)	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ 8
6. Para magamit ang mga talento (In order to use the talents)	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ 12
7. Para matuto ng trabaho na magagamit sa laya (To gain knowledge on work that can used upon release)	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ 8
8. Ang livelihood ay instrument para sa matuwid na pamumuhay (The livelihood program is an instrument for an upright living)	♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣ 8

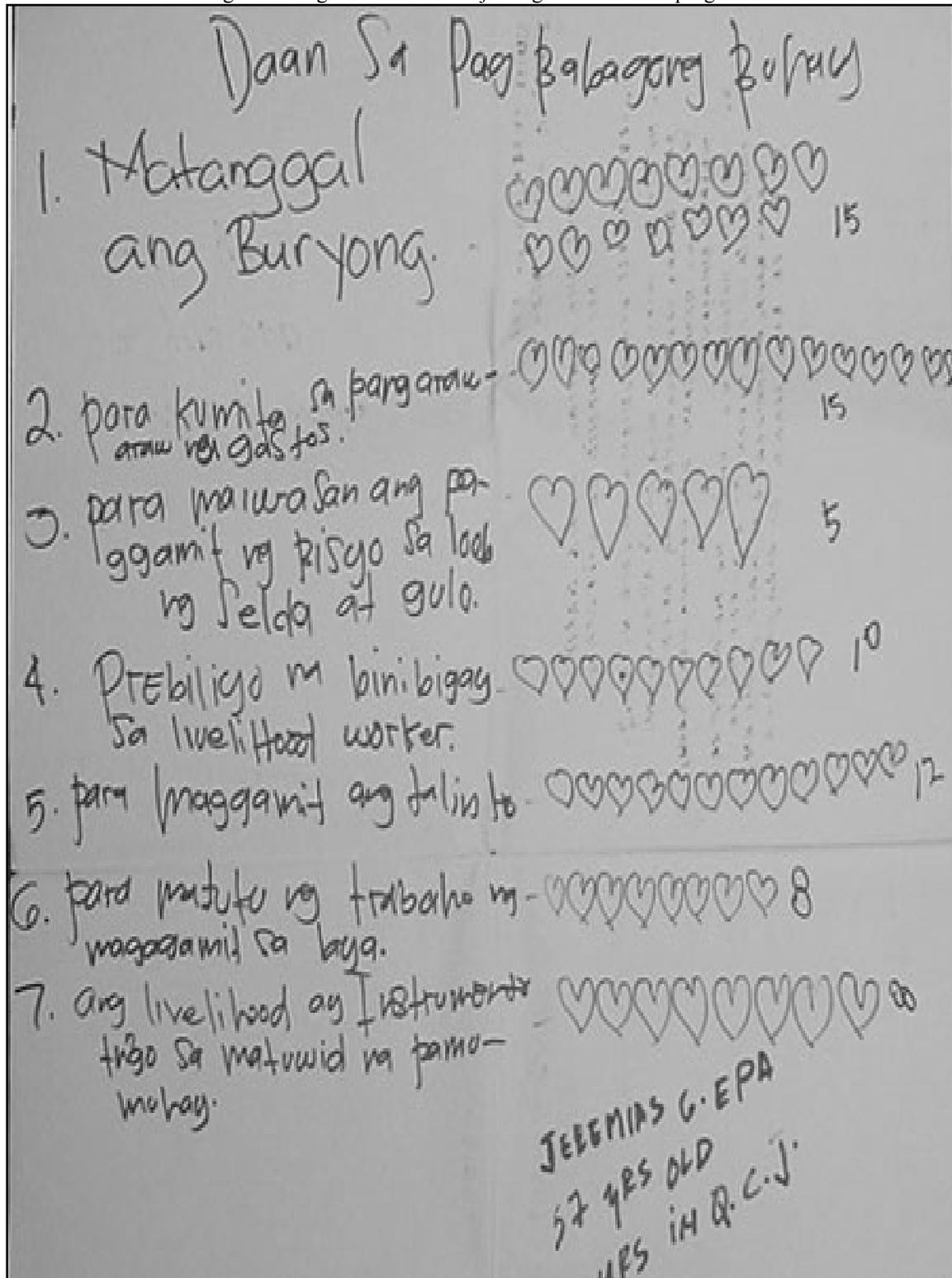
The primary motivations of livelihood workers are to cope with boredom or *buryong* and to generate income. (15 flowers) *Buryong* is a form of psychological and mental affliction that is dreaded by the inmates. It generally translates to hopelessness, paranoia and extreme restlessness. Many inmates admit that doing nothing for the whole day, counting the cells and bars (*magbilang ng magbilang ng selda at rehas*), coupled by the uncertainties in the case, either to be acquitted or convicted (*di alam kung lalaya o lalayo*) and the domestic problems (*di alam kung nag-tumbling na si misis*) are the fertile grounds for “*buryong*”. Inmates who are afflicted with this state of being generally become unpredictable and self-contained. They have a world of their own (*may sariling mundo*), sometimes oblivious of what is happening around them. In jail parlance, *isip ng isip, wala namang naiisip.*”

To generate income is also a necessity because of the insufficiency of the supplies from the Jail Bureau. The inmates have to produce their own toothpaste, soap, and other toiletries. They have also to augment their own food supplies.

To use their talents (12 flowers) is third commonly cited reason for joining the livelihood. Truly, many inmates were employed before their incarceration. This is especially true among gay inmates who are talented in haircutting. Also, the livelihood offers new kind of work and they enjoy learning it for the first time like the paper crafts. They said, these new talents could be used when they will be released from jail as an alternative livelihood. (8 flowers)

Livelihood work is considered a privilege because it allows them to stay in a more ventilated area. (8 flowers) It also gives them more mobility and respite to the common sight of fellow cellmates. Corollary to this, they also wish avoid the conflicts inside the cell as there are many “*bundulan*” going around. (5 flowers) Equally important is the fact that they also want to avoid the many vices inside the cells. (5 flowers)

Livelihood work is thus considered as a form of rehabilitation among the inmates. (8 flowers). According to the workers, work gives them dignity. They feel proud that there are times that instead of their visitors giving them money, it is they who give the money to their love ones. A proud father said, at least “*nagampanan ko ang katungkulan ko bilang ama*” (I performed by duties as a father). Accordingly, it instills on them the value of work. A worker said, it is only here where, for the first time, he valued the fruits of his labor.



PRA activities number 2

PRA activities number 3

Listing the Services and Qualifying the details

Methodology

The participants identified all the forms of livelihood that they are participating in. then they qualified the details in order to show the workforce and financial strength of the program.

Result:

Ang aming Hanapbuhay

Our livelihood

Services	Number of workers		Average income per month
	Present	Before	
Paper craft	9	20	P500.00
Metal Craft	2	2	P2,000.00
Watch Repairing	1	1	P500.00
Electronics Shop	1	1	P700.00
Tailoring	2	1	P10,000.00
Beauty Parlor	6	6	P1,000.00
Sari-sari Store	0	1	
Total	21	31	

There are six services offered in the livelihood section. These are: paper craft, metal craft, watch repairing, electronics shop, tailoring and Beauty Parlor. A new business is a sari –sari store. Sari-sari stores were originally part of the Stallowners Association (with 16 registered members) but with the assumption of the new warden, all the structures were disbanded. In its place arose the Cooperative. A sari-sari store was allowed to exist in the livelihood section though.

Previously, there were other services offered in the livelihood like candle and *parol* making. However, these kinds of services usually depend on:

1. Availability of raw materials
2. Marketability of the products
3. Presence of skilled workers. (Usually when the inmate who is an expert on his craft is released or transferred to other jails, so goes the expertise. There are rarely transfer of technology to new members.)

The most popular livelihood work is the paper crafts. It has the most number of workers. (9workers). However, due to changes in the apportioning of the spaces a few weeks before the PRA activities, it can be discerned that this is only less than half of their original number (20 workers). The livelihood workers have to cut back on their number as their present size sunk to almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of their original size.

If compared even to prior years (in 1997) when the population of the jail stood to only 1400 inmates, the number of the paper craft workers was as high as 60. This is so as many inmates do not have to go to the livelihood area to do the work. They could just

stay inside their cells. However, due to the overcrowding of the cells, it has become very difficult to work and it is no longer advisable to do so.

The second most popular is the Beauty Parlor, which is named as the Quezon City Jail Beauty Saloon. There are six workers offering haircutting, manicure, pedicure, hot oil, hair curl and other services. Most of the workers here are gay inmates.

The total number of livelihood workers is 31. This is very minimal (one percent) compared to the present population of 2800 inmates.

The income of the workers range from P500 to P10,000.00 per month. The lowest earners are the paper craft workers and watch repairer at P500.00 per month. They say that this is easily used for buying their needs and settling their debts. They said that, their income sometime suddenly goes very high if a kind-hearted person buys all the products in their display (*pinakyaw*). The beauticians claim that, at the average, they are earning at least P100 per day or approximately P3,000 per month. However, they admit that almost half of this goes to their *Papa* or boyfriends. (See PRA activities of gay inmates). The Tailor earns P10,000.00 per month. This comes from the volume of uniforms of the jail personnel, which he cut. However, it was qualified that this does not come very regularly.

The workers admit that the income is getting smaller. These are for two reasons:

1. The number of buyers are dwindling;
2. They have little produce.

The livelihood workers remit 10 percent of their income to the Rehabilitation office. In return, the amount is used to finance the programs sponsored by the Rehabilitation office. These programs include singing and dancing contest, cultural presentations and many others.

Despite, the very little income however, most inmates still want to join the livelihood and enjoy its psychological benefits.

1.

<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>Workers</u>		Average income/ Average/ average ^{rata-rata} rata-rata ^{per bulan} per ^{bulan} rata-rata
	<u>Ngayun</u>	<u>Orti</u>	
1. Paper Craft -	9	20	₹500 ⁰⁰
2. Metal Craft -	2	2	₹2,000 ⁰⁰
3. Wath Reaping -	1	1	₹500
4. Electronics Shop -	1	1	₹700
5. Tailoring -	2	1	₹10,000
6. Beauty parlor -	6	6	₹1,000
7. Sari-Sari Store -	(X)	1	
<u>Total</u>			
	21	31	

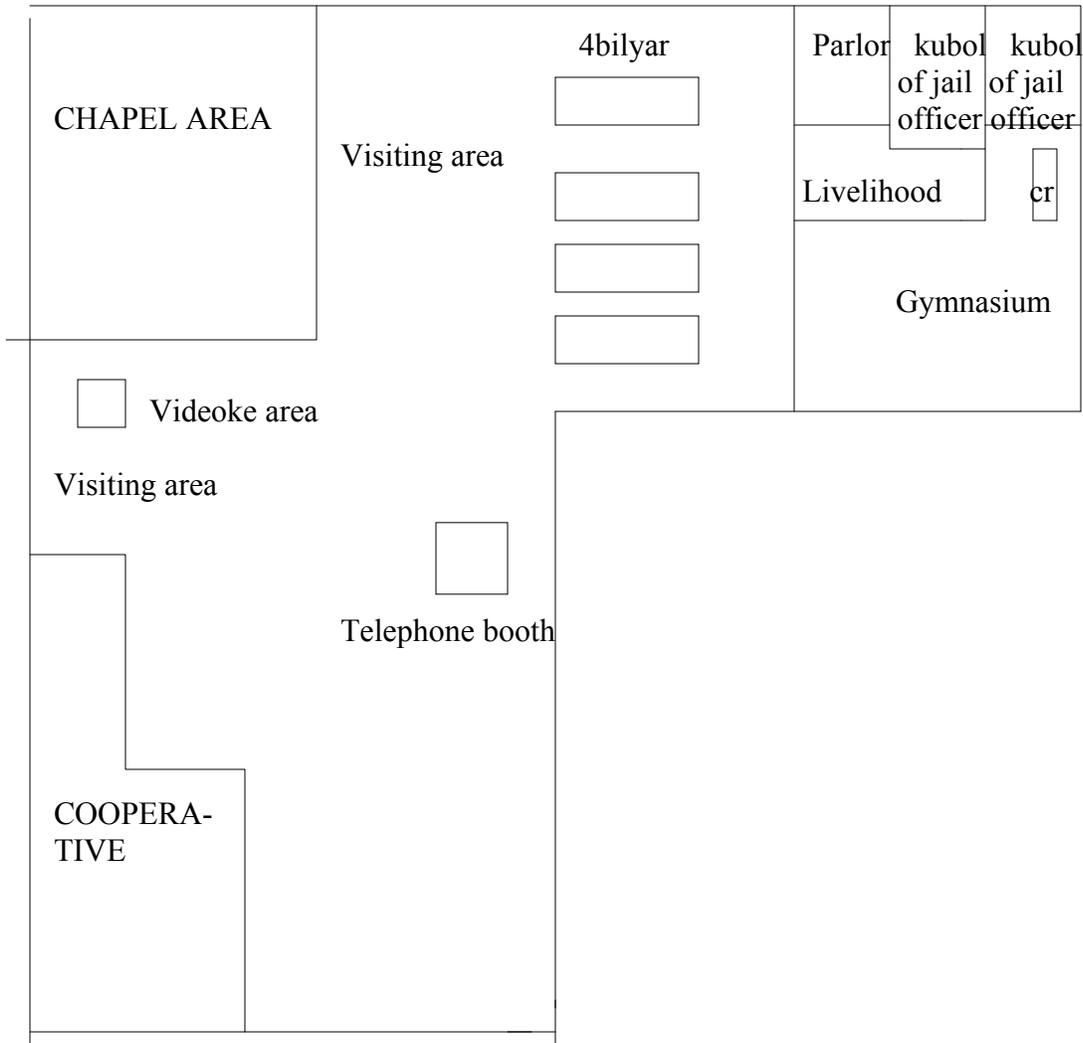
PRA activities number 3

Activity number 4
Mapping the livelihood area

Methodology:

The participants were asked to draw their space area in relation to the other areas occupied by other inmates and employees. They marked the spaces and estimated the floor area.

Result: **Livelihood space**



This map indicates the relative positions of the livelihood area and other activities in the jail area. In here, the prominent areas are the:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Chapel | 6. Parlor |
| 2. Cooperative | 7. Mini-Gym |
| 3. Visiting Area | 8. Cubicles or kubol of jail officers |
| 4. Billiard tables | 9. Videoke booth |
| 5. Livelihood | 10. Telephone booth |

The livelihood workers said that the “gym” was originally their place. It is almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of their original space area. However, without any notice, they were evicted and were reduced to almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of their space. This translated to a host of other problems.

The spaces are originally intended to be a visiting area. It was translated into a livelihood and parlor areas in order to meet the ‘rehabilitation functions’ of the bureau. As such, many inmates-workers also transformed the livelihood areas into a visiting area. Sometimes too, there are visitors who joined in the making of the products to while away their time. The livelihood area has also become a “sleeping place” for the workers. Since, inmates are not allowed to sleep during visiting hours (9am-5pm), the workers take a rest in makeshift beds in the livelihood area. (See picture). It is one of the “privileges” of the workers.

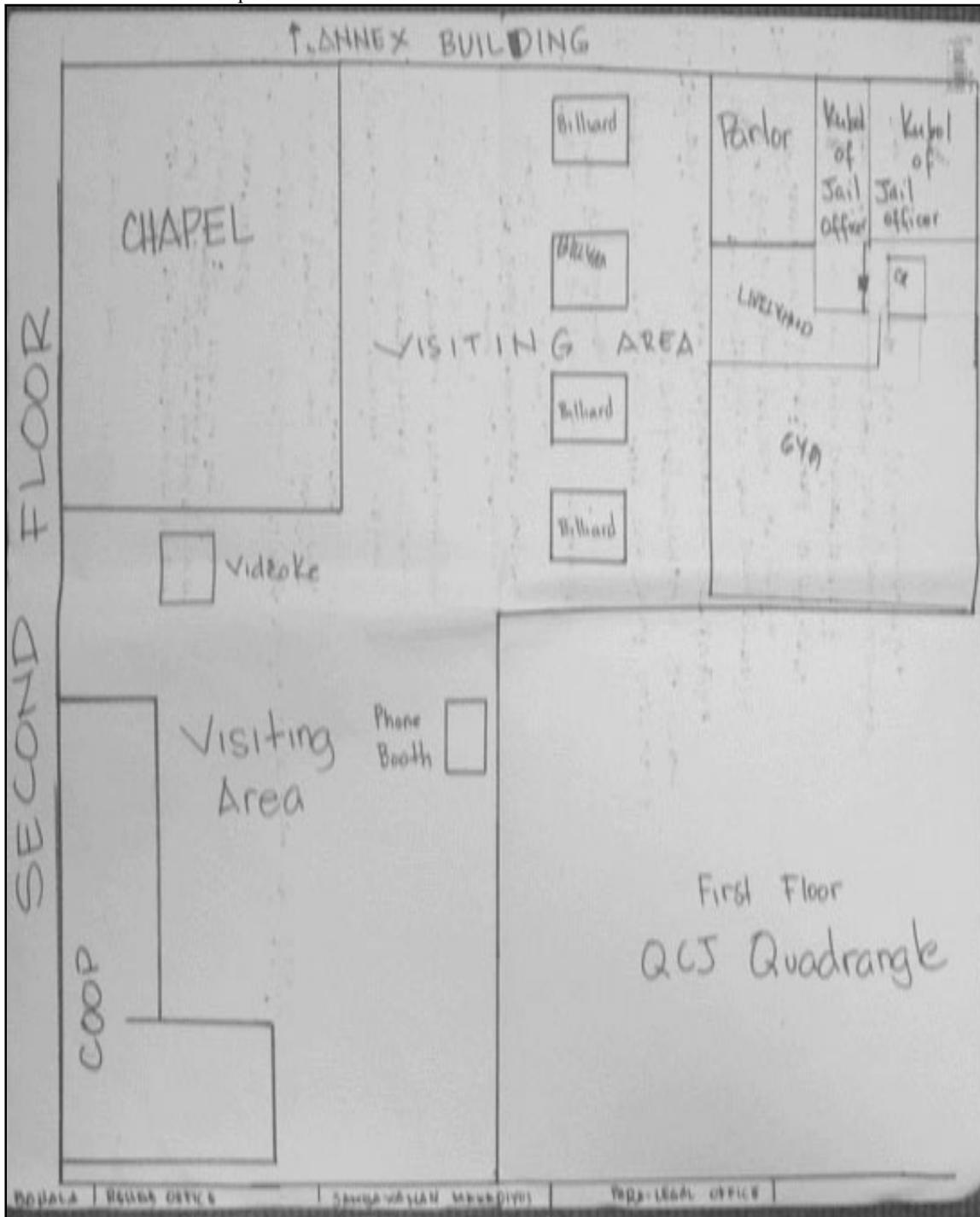
In order to generate income for the bureau, the jail officers transformed the visiting spaces into billiards, videoke and telephone areas. Those who wish to use these facilities have to pay an amount. In return, these were used to finance the many expenses of the bureau.

The employees also have created their “*kubols*” in the jail. These are areas where jail employees take their rest especially during continuous duty. As the number of jail officers is limited, they could be easily called upon, especially on cases of emergency. As such there is a need for personnel’s quarters. However, due to limited spaces, the visiting areas have become an alternative places for the officers quarters.

These limited spaces have resulted in struggle among the jail’s priorities. It has become bitter because it involves the very existence and well being of the members of the community.

1. Livelihood versus recreation. The “gym” has displaced the livelihood area. The “gym” has a lot more adherents than the livelihood project.
2. Visiting area versus recreation/income generating projects. The billiards table is considered a form of recreation. It started out with one table in year 2000. Now it has four tables and occupies a lot of space. It is also a big earner (as much as P1000.00 per day per table) according to the livelihood workers. The livelihood workers also said that it promotes the wrong values as the billiards has been a major betting area in jail. The workers complain that inmates have become hustlers upon their release.
3. Rehabilitation versus custodial functions. The beauty saloon and livelihood areas express their concern of the possibility of transforming the jail officer’s *kubol* into an extension of their areas. However, since the *kubols* serve as barracks to jail officers and thus translate into immediate manpower in times of need, the custodial functions cannot be sacrificed. In fact, the remaining spaces in the rooftop of the District 4 building have been transformed into jail officers’ *kubol*.

Livelihood workers description of livelihood area



PRA activities number 4

PRA activities number 5

Listing and evaluating the problems faced by Livelihood members

Methodology:

The participants were asked to write down all the problems that they encountered as members of the livelihood area. Then they ranked which of these problems are considered to be the most pressing. They put a triangle sign to indicate their feelings of urgency.

Result:

Mga Problema sa Livelihood
(Problems encountered by livelihood members)

Problema (Problems)	Tindi ng problema (Gravity of the problem)	Puntos (Points)	Rank
Kakulangan ng materyales Lack of materials	▼▼▼▼▼	5	8
Lalong sumisikip ang puwesto Lessening of space	▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼ ▼▼▼▼▼	13	3
Walang pagdidisplayan ng finish product No display area for finished products	▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼ ▼▼▼▼▼	13	3
Walang market at ahinto sa mga produkto No market and promoters for the products	▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼ ▼▼▼▼▼	15	1
Walang tagabili ng mga gamit sa labas/walang purchaser No one serves as a purchaser to raw materials	▼▼▼▼▼	5	8
Walang pinansir No financier	▼▼▼	3	10.5
Hindi prayoridad and mga trabahador sa livelihood sa paglabas sa gabi upang makapagtrabaho. The livelihood workers are not a priority among inmates who are allowed to get of the cell during nighttime. (Till before headcount)	▼▼▼▼▼▼▼	6	6
Kulang ang mga produktong pang exhibit pag binalik matapos hiram Products borrowed are not properly accounted when returned	▼▼▼	3	10.5
Kulang ng suporta ang management Lack of support from the management	▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼	10	5
May matic ang mga gamit pag pumasok sa gate Extortion among the gaters	▼▼▼▼▼	5	8
Laging nababawasan ang mga tao dahil sa liit ng espasyo The number of the of workers are perennially reduced due to lack of space	▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼ ▼▼	13	3

The number one problem of the workers is the lack of market and promoters for their products. As it is, only the visitors of the inmates and a trickling of some NGO workers

are their common market. This is very limited since most of the visitors have the inmates as their prime concern and it is but proper that they spend their money to the needs of the inmates. (*"Ibinubuhos ang lahat ng gastos sa preso"*) There were attempts to sell the products outside the jail, example in the Quezon City Hall *talipapa*, but unfortunately these are not sustained. Many of the products were taken on a consignment basis, thus tying their capital.

The second most perennial problem is the lack of space. They work in a very limited area, they have no display area for their products and as such, the number of workers is dwindling. The livelihood workers profess that they had seen better days before, that is, before a gym was constructed out of their original space. They tried to work it out and aired their grievances to the Chief Rehabilitation Officer and eventually to the warden, unfortunately, to no avail.

This is the reason that the workers feel that they **are not a priority by the management.** They contend that they give a lot of prestige to the bureau, that is, their products are constantly displayed during foundation days and that they are constantly shown on television and newspapers as a major reformation program, yet, they seem to be the last priority in terms of allocation of spaces. Also, they are not the priority when it comes to mobility of inmates. This is especially for the period 6-9pm. They contend that as livelihood workers, they should also be allowed to get out of their cells and continue their work. (As a custodial policy, all inmates should be inside their cells after the 6 pm headcount. But due to over crowdedness, some inmates are allowed to get out. Accordingly, *yung mga may pang matik lamang ang nakakalabas*) Those with money to bribe the jail guards are the ones allowed to get out.

Corollary to this is the added burden of **having to pay "matik" or grease money every time they bring in some materials for their livelihood program.** For example, rugby, which is necessary among the paper craft workers, is considered contraband. However, with a specific amount, they are allowed to bring the materials in. The effect is a higher cost of producing the product and as such, lowers profits for the workers.

Other problems relate to the operations of the livelihood program. The yellow pages of the PLDT directory, the main raw materials in the paper products are at times lacking. Also, some of their instruments are confiscated during greyhound operations or searching conducted by the bureau. The searching intends to ensure the safety of the inmates by confiscating any harmful objects. The tailors and haircutters have their scissors constantly on the threat of being confiscated. They could apply for retrieval of these instruments; however, this takes a couple of days. As such, their work are paralyzed.

They also have problems in the start up capital. Most inmates join the livelihood without capital. But since they have to buy their own raw materials, they are hard put in the initial flow. As such, they new workers start as "apprentice" to old timers, learn the trade and do some part of the work. They are then given a share of the income. This in return becomes their capital to start their own "business."

Some problems are menial but also reflective to their complaint of low status. Some of their products are “borrowed” by bureau officials to be displayed in the regional and national offices. After the affair, most of the products are returned in a decrepit state (*sira-sira na*) or worse, lacking in number (*kulang-kulang na.*) This is costly for them as they cannot rotate their capital when they cannot recover their investments. This shows that the livelihood workers are not at the heart of the management. As one worker replied, “*nasa puso namin sila, subalit kami’y kanilang kinalimutan*”.

The problems of the Livelihood program according to its members

Among the proposed solutions, the ranking came as:

First:

The immediate removal of recreation activities that is not important to the inmates.

The livelihood workers are particularly referring to the newly created “gym” that was taken from their space. They say that their hearts bleed to this situation. They invested a lot of money in making the livelihood area presentable, that is providing for the fence and other structures, only to be shattered to give way to the “gym”. They also lament the many billiard tables eating their display area. Many visitors can no longer see their products because there are many kibitzers watching the billiards game especially when there is a bet. According to the workers the bet reach as high as P20,000.00.

The second recommendation pertains to the overall needs of the inmates:

1. Bigger space

The workers believe that at the present moment, any expansion in their space area would necessarily translate into the lessening of other areas. At the moment, they cannot argue against other stakeholders as these are more powerful than they. According to workers, the “gym” is owned and operated by a group of jail officials and the warden himself is the owner of some of the billiard tables. As such, they are powerless to air their voice. At the present jail atmosphere, many inmates do not air their voices for fear of punishment. (*Biyahe sa Bicutan*)

What they are asking is a bigger jail facility. The Quezon City Jail has an ideal capacity of 700 inmates. Now the present inmate population is 2800. It is projected that at the rate it is going, the jail population will reach 3500 by mid 2004.

2. Market and marketer

The livelihood workers are begging for the kind assistance of enterprising businessmen. They wish to have a partnership with business communities for a continued and sustained market for their products. They also request for the improvement of their products through volunteer designers.

3. Full support from the management

The workers appeal for the full assistance from the management. They wish to become an integral part of the reformation program and not merely a pro-forma where they can be used only when needed. They wish to do away with the attitude of having their shots taken and displayed for publicity purposes only but on reality, these are mere lip service. This can be done if the management can exempt them from the tasks that they have inside their cells, that is, paying their VIP fees. (A weekly fee of P50 pesos). It will also help if the livelihood workers can be given an identification card as legitimate workers. This will be a big boost to their morale.

The livelihood workers ask that a memorandum of agreement be forged between them and the management. This will legitimize the use of their tools and the raw materials. This will limit, if not eradicate, the expenses incurred due to “*matik*”

4. Psychological support

The livelihood workers are one in saying that they share the sentiments of most inmates that they had been adversely affected by the new warden’s policy on the prohibition on the entry of children seven years of age and below. This has resulted in their low morale, and as such cannot perform well as livelihood workers.

This policy however is resorted to because many inmates have taken advantage of the laxity of the situation. Many children stayed with their families inside the jail with all the health, security and psychological hazards attendant to it. The families also have added to the over crowdedness of the cells.

The workers were asking for a middle ground. They wish to see their children even only every Sundays or during special occasions. They promise that they will send their children immediately after visiting hours. Since, they are members of the livelihood program, perhaps, they could be accorded with such a privilege.

Synthesis

The conditions of the livelihood workers reveal the inherent conflict between the custodial and reformation functions of the bureau. The bureau is tasked to guard the inmates, make sure that they will not escape and as such, to protect the society from the threat of the “offenders”. However, the Bureau is also tasked to reform and rehabilitate these individuals, thus, necessitating the mobility and empowerment of the “offenders”.

This has translated in a conflict among custodial and rehabilitation officers. While the rehabilitation officers want to teach the inmates how to dance, the custodial officers have to put manacles to their feet while they are dancing.

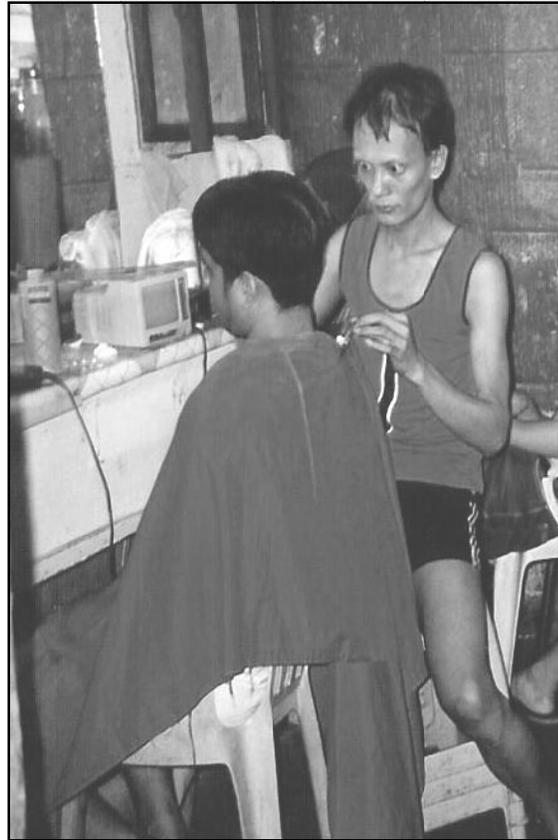
Also, the rehabilitation functions in itself, there are rooms of conflict. The livelihood members are at odds with recreation members, though both of them have the avowed purpose of reforming the inmates. It is therefore an ethical value on which to prioritize.

This conflict has been made more resolute due to lack of facilities and personnel. Limited spaces are bitterly fought over by the competing groups. The personnel are thinly stretched in order to meet the various demands.

Worse is the fact that these programs can only move on with the proper funding. But since there is a limited budget, the personnel have to resort to income-generating schemes in order to finance their programs. The projects, which can give the highest perk, are the ones that are patronized. This has resulted to the warping of values and concurrent abuses. A project that has a low reformatory value but high-income yield (for example billiards) is patronized over livelihood programs. According to the livelihood workers, instead of a disciplined workforce upon release, what we have are expert hustlers.

Coupled with this is the inherent structure and culture of suppression and fear among the inmates. They cannot air their voice and simply receive the orders from the higher ups.

This eventually translates into the overall power play inside the jail. The determination of the programs and projects redound on to whose group is the more powerful and organized. In the process, the twin functions of the bureau are compromised.



An

inmate selling cigarettes in the livelihood area. A gay inmate inmate working in the parlor. Notice (also look at his arms and face which is full of boils) the scissor that he is using.



Members of the livelihood tailoring and paper crafts division. (Notice the crowdedness in their space)



Inmates selling barbeque stick, “palamig” and other stuffs. (Notice the sense of community wrought by this set up)

PRA activities on the members of the Pangkat

Introduction

In the Quezon City Jail, inmates are classified according to *pangkat* affiliation. Once declared to be a member of a *pangkat*, the inmates are grouped to the *pangkat* where they belong and become part of the *brigada* of the *Pangkat*.

There are four *Pangkat* that exist in the Quezon City Jail. These are:

1. Batang City Jail or BCJ
2. Sigue-Sigue Sputnik or SSS
3. Sigue-Sigue Commando or SSC
4. Bahala na Gang or BNG.

In jail, the members would prefer their affiliation to be called a *pangkat* rather than a gang, though outsiders do not differentiate between the two.. For them, people associate gangs with violence and notoriety, which the *pangkat* is not. They would associate *pangkat* with brotherhood or a family of inmates in the jail.

Non-*pangkat* members are called *Querna*. These are unaffiliated inmates. The *Querna* members are quartered in the Annex Building of the Jail.

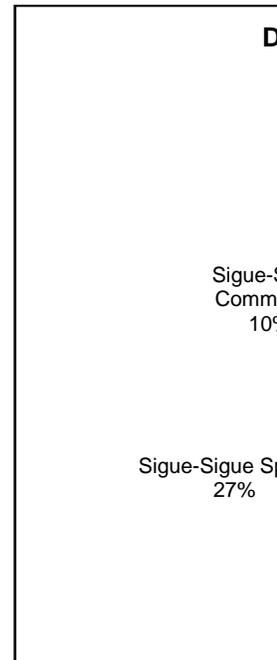
The *Pangkat* has a stricter rules and regulations compared to the *Querna*. The *pangkat nanunungkulan* commands more respect and fear over their fellow inmates than the *Querna nanunungkulan*. The *pangkat* is also more organized than the *Querna* and they have affiliations in the police precincts and the National Bilibid Penitentiary.

The **Bahala na Gang (BNG)** used to be the dominant *pangkat* in terms of population in the Quezon City Jail. BNG is the dominant *pangkat* in Quezon City wherein many squatter communities have strong *pangkat* recruitment. However, a series of riots or inter-*pangkat* conflicts in November 1997 necessitated the transfer of the BNG members to the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center or MMRC in Bicutan. Now, the BNG members are quartered in the Quezon City Jail only during court hearings, and as such, stay in Quezon City Jail for not more than a week.

Taking the four *pangkat* together, they constitute more than 60 percent of the inmate population. As of June 2003, the population stood as follows:

Inmate distribution according to gang affiliation

Querna	1019
Sigue-Sigue Sputnik	736
Sigue-Sigue Commando	252
Batang City Jail	629
Bahala na Gang	59
Total	2695



Box number 1

Purpose of the PRA activities

The purpose of the PRA is fourfold:

1. To depict the way of life of *pangkat* members as compared to the members of the Querna
 - a. The manner and reasons of recruitment
 - b. The rules and regulations of the *pangkat*
 - c. The *pangkat* culture and leadership structure
2. To show the *pangkat* relationships and network
 - a. With other *pangkat*
 - b. With the jail management
 - c. With the mother *pangkat* in the Muntinglupa
 - d. With satellite *pangkat* in the Police station centers and Squatters communities
3. To portray the impacts of the *pangkat* system in the penal administration
 - a. The custodial functions that the *pangkat* play
 - b. The strict discipline that they impose over the fellow inmates
4. To depict the overall situation of the Quezon City Jail using the *pangkat* way of life as the prism:

- a. The *pangkat* structure as the indicator of alternative human resource program
- b. The *pangkat* way of life as the resultant penal administration.

PRA activities number1

Reasons of joining the pangkat

Methodology:

Three to four members of each *pangkat* were invited to join the PRA activities. There were also five members of Querna who participated in the discussions. There were a total of 18 participants all in all. The participants were divided into four groups of four to five members. The groups were given a manila paper. Each member was also given a pentel pen. Then they were asked to describe, draw and illustrate their life as *pangkat* members. After which a group leader reported the answers of the group. The members of the Querna were asked to listen to the answers of the *pangkat* members and to validate the answers of the *pangkat* in the discussions.

The members of the other groups raised their approval and disapproval to the answers of the reporting group. Then a synthesis of the answers was made.

The Result:

Bakit sumasali sa Pangkat Why inmates become pangkat members?

1. Para sa proteksyon (For protection)

According to the gang members, the number one reason why they joined the *pangkat* is for protection. They need to protect themselves from:

a. The abuses of their fellow inmates

This is especially true for newly committed inmates or “*bagito*”. The old timers may take advantage of the naiveté of the *bagito* and ask money and personal belongings from them. Once a *pangkat* member, the *bagito* can thus complain to the *pangkat* officers or *nanunungkulan* such actions and the old timers are meted out a swift penalty. The rules of the *pangkat* strictly prohibit the “*pambuburaot*” or taking away a fellow inmate’s things.

That is why the newly committed inmates of the *pangkat* do not have to pay a **commitment fee**. The commitment fee is the amount paid by newly committed inmates among the Querna, which, by the *pangkat* standards is a form of “pagpapahirap sa kapwa inmate”.

b. The maltreatment of police officers and BJMP officials or empleyado

According to the *pangkat* members, the police and jail authorities could easily subject the inmates to physical torture and other forms of abuses. The police and jail guards could easily pick them up from their cells or “*hugutin sila sa selda*” and subject them to torture. Being an organized lot, the *pangkat* can protect their members by not giving the members whenever they are being picked up. Also, if the beatings were already done, the *pangkat* could file a complaint against the erring police and jail officers and use their organizational power like *hindi*

magpapabilang or not to be headcounted unless their grievances are met. Compared to the Querna members, the *pangkat* are more secured from police brutality. (See PRA on Police Brutality)

c. The complainants who may have intent to harm them in the jail

The *pangkat* members said that there are complainants of their criminal cases who would want to physically harm or kill them inside the jail. Accordingly, the complainants could hire and pay an inmate to *salvage* or execute them. Though records show that there were no incidents of murder with such motives, nonetheless, the inmates consider this as a reason for joining the *pangkat*. It is believed that the *mayores* or head of the *pangkat* would not trade the life of his *kakosa* just for monetary considerations.

Accordingly, being a *pangkat* member shield them from all these kinds of harm. They feel protected by their *pangkat*.

For the inmates in the Querna however, they opted to be unaffiliated because they see no need of protection. The *pangkat* only invites more trouble since even if they do not have enemies, the enemies of the *pangkat* would naturally become their enemies too.

2. Para may kasama sa loob sa pagharap ng problema.

To have a companion in the jail to face the problems

3. For belongingness

4. Nandun ang mga kakilala

Their friends are members of the *pangkat*

The second, third and fourth most common reason cited by the inmates in joining a *pangkat* is to have a companion or a friend to face their personal problems. According to the *pangkat* members, they could rely to their *kakosa* in hearing them out in the personal problems. In fact during their *sembols* or Sunday meetings, they are encouraged to hear and listen to the circumstances of each and everyone. The saying “*walang ibang magtutulugan rito kundi kakosa mo*” is like a mantra told again and again. Among the benefits derived from the *pangkat* include:

- a. Pagkakaroon ng kasalo or karancho (Food Sharing)

This is a mechanism among the *pangkat* where in the food of more affluent inmates are socialized and shared to other members of the *kasalo*. In this way, even the inmates who do not have visitors are assured of food nourishment from their fellow inmates.

- b. Pagkakaroon ng sapin na matutulugan at gamot kung nagkakasakit (**Provision of Sleeping and medicine needs**)

The *pangkat* provides for carton or “*sapin*” which could be used for sleeping to shield them from the cold floor. The *kakosa* could also seek financial assistance from the *Mayores* of the *Pangkat* to buy medicines when they are sick.

According to Querna members, these reasons for joining the *pangkat* are equally practiced in their *brigada*. However, they admit, that the *pangkat* looks after their *kakosa* more efficiently than the manner in which the Querna looks after their members.

5. Dati nang kasapi ng pangkat noong nasa laya pa

The inmate is already a member of the *pangkat* even when he is still a free man.

There are some *pangkat* members who are already affiliated with a *pangkat* even before they were put in jail. This is made possible by joining the squatter chapters of the *pangkat*. Most squatter communities in Quezon City is a territory of the Bahala na Gang and the Sigue-Sigue Sputnik.

Some inmates admit that the reasons for joining a *pangkat* in the squatters communities is *katuwaan o trip lang* or just for fun. The *pangkat* outside of the jail is not as organized and disciplined and it does not interfere to the lives of the members. As such it is no big deal for them to have a tattoo that symbolizes membership to the *pangkat*. However, the inmates would belatedly discover that once inside the jail, the *pangkat* controls almost every movement and decision that they have.

6. Hindi alam na pangkat pala ang napapasukan

The inmates did not know that they are into pangkat

There are some inmates who admit that they did not know that what they are into is a *pangkat*. They were told by their fellow inmates in the police precincts that they need to place a *sembol* or tattoo in their bodies so that they could be taken cared of properly. The inmates are warned that other inmates will harm or rape them if they do not have a tattoo on their bodies when they will be transferred to the city jail,

The inmates, who are scared to death of the possible scenarios in the city jail, thus allow themselves to be tattooed by the *sembols* or marks of the *pangkat*. They will only find out later on, when they are already transferred to the City Jail, that most of the stories peddled in the police precincts are not true. In fact, compared to the police precincts, the inmates are more humane in their treatment with their fellow inmates.

There are times too that inmates have a tattoo drawn in their bodies for art sake when they are still out of jail. For them, the tattoo does not signify any affiliation to the *pangkat*. However, when the inmates were arrested, the *pangkat* members would claim that the tattoo found in their bodies are *sembols* of their *pangkat*. The inmates thus become part of the *pangkat*.

The *pangkat* members however clarified that they were not forced to join the *pangkat*. Eventually, too, after seeing the camaraderie of the members of the *pangkat*, they came to accept their membership and love their *pangkat*.

Determining the mechanics of joining a pangkat

Methodology

After being asked of their reasons of joining the *Pangkat*, the participants were asked to qualify and illustrate how they become *pangkat* members. The participants related how they end up members of the *pangkat* and see the patterns of their recruitment.

Result:

Paano napapasali ng pangkat **How could one join a pangkat?**

Accordingly, there are four venues where an inmate can opt to join the *pangkat*. And in the different venues, there are unique reasons and manners why they become members.

1. In squatters area

- a. Bata pa lang may tattoo na
Even when they are still a small child, they already have tattoos in their bodies
- b. Mga anak ng mga may pangkat
They are children of pangkat members
- c. Para may kasama sa paglarga (paggawa ng krimen)
So that they have companions in their criminal trade

The participants said *Pagpapangkat* is already a tradition that is accepted by hardcore members, especially among those who have been convicted and served their sentence in Muntinlupa. As such they become proud members of the *pangkat* where they belong. For them, it is like joining a fraternity by campus students or like joining a civic club by businessmen. They see it as a social capital that could be maximized. Well-known personalities who were once been jailed also maintain their ties with members of the *pangkat* and other friends they met in jail. Such that, in the squatter communities, the proud fathers would place a tattoo to the bodies of their children and proclaim that when the children grow up, they could also be members of the *pangkat* where the father belongs.

In some squatter communities, *pangkat* membership is a status symbol. Before one could join a “*larga*” or say a hold up act, it is preferred that the companions are affiliated with the *pangkat*.

2. Sa presinto

In the police precincts

- a. **There are police officers who are members of the *pangkat*. The police-cum *pangkat* members openly recruit members for their *pangkat*.**

This usually happens when there are police officers who are charged of a criminal offense in the conduct of their official functions. They are put in jail like any ordinary inmates. When

they are in jail, they usually seek the protection of the *pangkat* and become *pangkat* members themselves. This is so as they fear the retaliatory acts of the inmates whom they may have arrested before.

Eventually, the said police officers are cleared of their criminal offense and reinstated back as policemen. This time around, the police officers maintain their loyalty to the *pangkat* where they belong. As such, they would encourage inmates to join the favored *pangkat*.

b. There are police officers who maintain *assets* among the *pangkat* members.

Some police officers gather data through the *assets* they maintain in the criminal network. Without the tipsters, they would be hard put in firming up their cases. The police officers maintain *pangkat* members in the police precincts, which they could turn up to be *assets*. The *assets* would be delegated authority over their fellow inmates and thus become cell officers or *nanunungkulan* in the police precincts. Since most of these *assets* and cell officers are *pangkat* members, they would encourage the inmates to join their *pangkat*. Those who do not want to become members would be assigned in cleaning the comfort room and to sleep in the cold floor. In order to avail of a better treatment, the inmates would join the *pangkat* of the cell officer.

Accordingly, the inmates fear for their lives once they are put in jail. The media portrayal of brutality runs through their minds and fears that this could really be happening. As such, they would do everything possible to alleviate their condition. They therefore believe the admonitions of police officers and the cell *nanunungkulan* into joining a *pangkat*.

However, the participants clarified that not all police officers engage in this mechanism. In fact, some police officers would even file anti-tattoo charges for those inmates who become members of the *pangkat*.

The dominant *pangkat* in the police stations in Quezon City

Police Station	Location	Dominant Gang
Station 1	Laloma	Sigue Sigue Commando Sigue Sigue Sputnik
Station 2	Baler	Bahala na Gang
Station 3	Talipapa, Novaliches	Batang City Jail
Station 4	Bayan, Novaliches	Bahala na Gang
Station 5	SM Fairview	Sigue-Sigue Sputnik Batang City Jail Sigue-Sigue Commando
Station 6	Batasan	Sigue Sigue Sputnik
Station 7	Camp Panopio	Bahala na Gang
Station 8	Project 4	Bahala na Gang
Station 9	Project 2	Batang City Jail
Station 10	Kamuning	Bahala na Gang
Station 11	Galas, Tandang Sora	Sigue-Sigue Sputnik, Bahala na Gang

This box indicates what *pangkat* is the dominant or *nagdadala* in the police precincts. *Nagdadala* means that the *mayor* of the cell is affiliated to a particular *pangkat*. According to the participants, the *nagdadala* is decided upon by:

- a. The number of inmates arrested. Meaning, if there are more Sigue-Sigue Sputnik members arrested in a particular week, then most naturally, the cell *nanunungkulan* would come from the ranks of the SSS.
- b. Concurrence of the majority of the inmates. If the cell *nanunungkulan* becomes very unpopular among the inmates, they could be replaced by popular vote. The members of the minor *pangkat* could group themselves together in order to unseat the dominant *pangkat*. (This could be a source of *pangkat* conflict)
- c. The endorsement of the police officers. The police officers could place their *assets* or *kakosa* as the mayor of the cell. This is especially true for police officers who actively recruit for the inmates to join their *pangkat*. However, this is seldom done as other police officers do not encourage this practice. It had been a source of conflict among the police officers to have their own “*manok*” or favored inmates in the inmate leadership structure.

3. Sa Lungsod Piitan In the Quezon City Jail

Not all inmates in the police precincts opt to join a *pangkat* and remained unaffiliated. However, when they are already in the Quezon City Jail, some of the Querna inmates become members of the *pangkat* and transfer from one *brigada* to another.

According to the inmates, this is for the following reasons:

Benepisyong mga nagpapangkat	
Benefits of joining a pangkat	
1.	Hindi ka gagawing utus-utusan
You will not be made an errand boy	
2.	Para di ka mag-igib ng tubig
So that you will be made to fetch water	
3.	Kung mayagalaw sa iyo may mapagsusumbungan ka
If somebody harms you, you can have a group to rely on	
4.	Hindi ka kakawawain at pagtripan ng mga VIP sa selda
You will not be played around by the VIP of the cells	
5.	May tira ka sa loob ng selda
You have a power inside the cell	
6.	Mas maluwag ang brigada (lalo na sa Batang City Jail)
It is more spacious in the brigada of the pangkat especially the Batang City Jail.	

The participants said that in the Querna, the dominant factor that plays around is money and resources. Inmates who do not have money and resources are made the “utus-utusan” or errand boys and are subjected to abuses by the more affluent inmates or the VIPs (very important preso) As such, the inmates secretly affiliate themselves with *pangkat* and use the *pangkat* organizational power to get back at those who abuse them. Eventually, when the jail officers discover that they have affiliated themselves with *pangkat* (they conduct body searchings of tattoos) the inmates are transferred from the Brigada of the Querna to the Brigada of the *pangkat*.

Also, the inmates reveal that they join themselves to the *pangkat*, especially to the Batang City Jail in order to avail of more spacious cells. As it is, the Querna population stand to 1268 as of October 13, 2003 where it used to accommodate only three hundreds inmates. The Querna is the most congested *brigada* in the Quezon City Jail. Also, the Querna brigade does not have a continuous supply of water since their building is more elevated and the water pressure cannot reach their floors.

There are also some jail officers who are affiliated with the *pangkat*. The jail officers also sport a tattoo in their bodies that signify their *pangkat* membership. The jail officer-cum *pangkat* member acts as the supporter or *padrino* of the *pangkat*. The *pangkat nanunungkulan* and the jail officer-cum *pangkat* member work in mutual support among each other. The *nanunungkulan* of the *pangkat* could request favors to the jail officers and the jail officers could likewise request favors to the *pangkat* leaders. Example of the favors would be the tacit entry of contrabands like drugs and liquor for the consumption of the inmates.

4. Sa muntinglupa

In the National Bilibid Penitentiary

Not all inmates in the Quezon City Jail are members of the *Pangkat*. The inmates would want to know the results of their cases before they affiliate themselves with the *pangkat*. Eventually, when they are convicted of their cases and transferred to Muntinglupa, they opted to join the *Pangkat*.

The reasons for joining a *pangkat* include:

1. May taga-salo sa kanila sa Munti
They have friends who are already in Muntinglupa who could assist them.

As in the case of the transfer from police precincts to the City Jail, the transfer from City Jail to Muntinglupa is dominated by the fear of the unknown. Inmates who stay in city jail for a long period of time and who steadfastly remain a *Querna*, would eventually put a tattoo in their bodies. This is so as they would want to avail of the services of their friends who had been earlier transferred and are now members of the *pangkat* in Munti.

2. The *pangkat* are more organized and efficient than the *Querna*

It is a common understanding among inmates in the Quezon City Jail that the *pangkat* are more organized and efficient in *munti*. Stories of how the *pangkat* controls the hospitals, educational institutions and the other offices in *munti* are usually peddled. Since the source of information about Muntinglupa are the *tayman* or inmates who had served time, the *tayman* usually glorify their experiences and paint the pictures of *Munti* in a mythical manner. As such, the *pangkat* are given a rosier picture.

Though not all the myths about the *pangkat* are true, for it also depends on the *pangkat*, there is generally some truth that the *pangkat* are more organized. However, the *pangkat* way of life is much different in *Munti* than in the city jails.

PRA activities number 3

Drawing the tattoos of the *pangkat* and clarifying misconceptions about the *pangkat*

Methodology

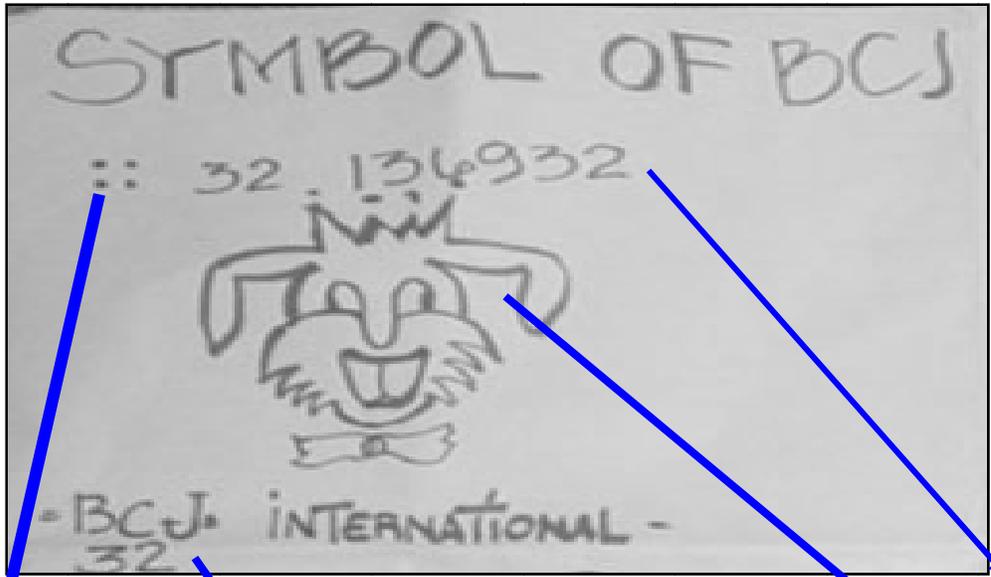
The inmates are asked to draw the most common tattoos that pertain to their *pangkat*:

Pangkat	Symbol	Buo	Significant Number	Name of head	Motto
Batang City Jail	Four balls	Bugs Bunny	32	Mayor de Mayores	Kami ay international
Sigue-Sigue Sputnik	Five balls	Spaceship	1	De Mayores	Sputnik number one
Sigue-Sigue Commando	Three balls	Musang or tiger's face	22	Commando or Mayores	Do or die Commando
Bahala na Gang	One ball	Tartaro Or viking's head or Question mark	13-11-67	Mayores	When where shall I die?

It takes a veteran inmate or “*namamangkat*” to interpret correctly the tattoos found in the bodies of the inmates. The points or *maliit na tuldok* may spell the difference of the *pangkat*. Sometimes, this becomes a source of conflict as the *pangkat* claims “property” over the inmates. For example, a tattoo of a rose with three petals (three points) will be interpreted by the Sigue-Sigue Commando to mean three balls. On the other, the Batang City Jail may construe one thorn to be an additional point, thus making it four balls.

Thus the jail officers should be careful in reading the tattoos found in the inmates' body. Uninitiated jail officers sometimes put an inmate in a *brigada* that does not reflect the inmate's tattoo. This becomes a source of conflict among the *pangkat* since the *pangkat* will require the inmate to erase the tattoo (*pagbubura*) which will affront the sensibilities of the other *pangkat*.

Worse is when there are outsiders who purposefully want the *pangkat* to be at odds with each other. This usually happens in the police precincts. A *bagito* inmate will be drawn two opposing tattoos in his body (for example a bugs bunny on top of spaceship). Since the *bagito* would not know the meaning of the two tattoos, when the *bagito* is transferred to the city jail, he will be claimed by both the BCJ and Sputnik. If not settled, trouble may erupt. The usual recourse had been to transfer the said inmate to Bicutan so that source of conflict is eliminated.

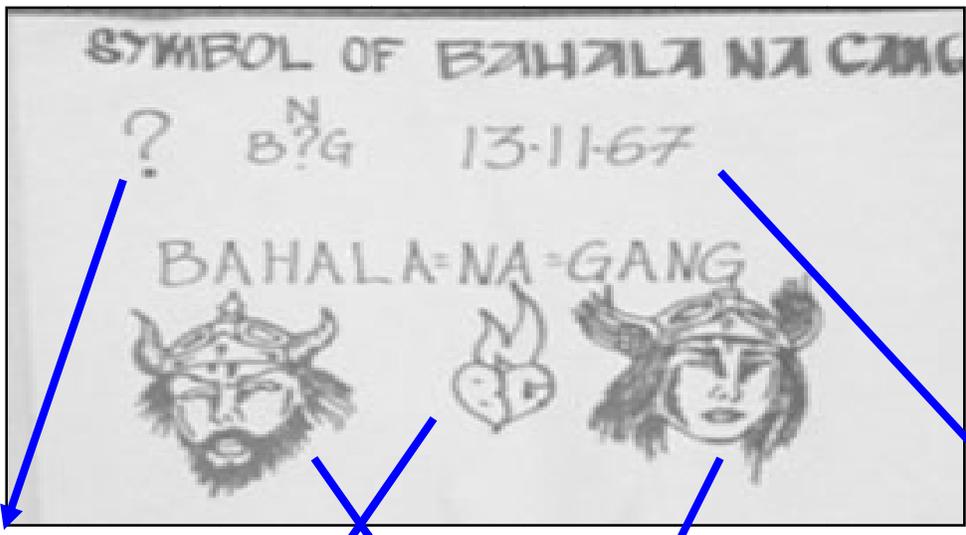


Four balls

Initials of the pangkat with the significant number

significant number

Bugs bunny with two ears dropping



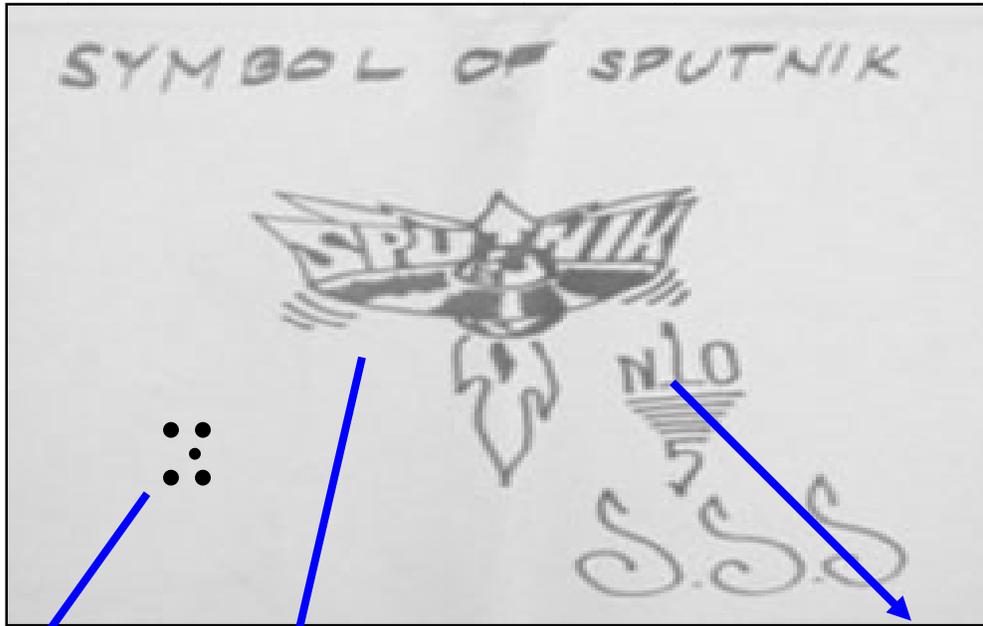
Tandang pananong or Question Mark or one ball

Bahala na Gang

Tartaro Or viking

Significant number

in love



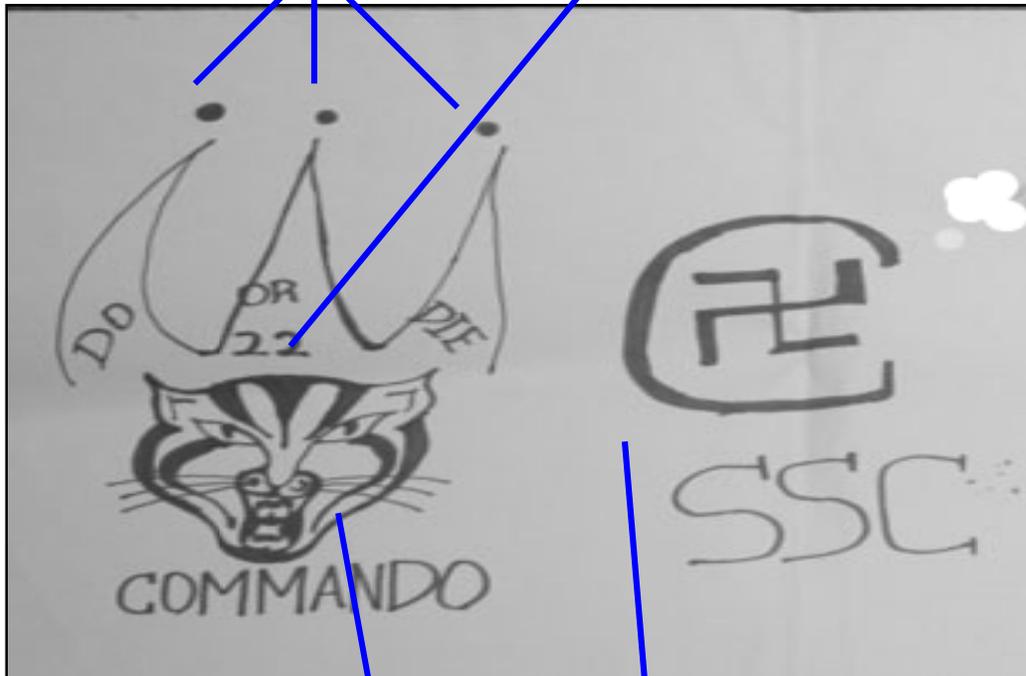
five balls

Spaceship

initials of the pangkat
with significant number

Three balls

Significant number



Musang or tiger face

Nazi sign

PRA activities Number 4

Describing the difference of the *Pangkat* from the *Querna*

	Pangkat	Querna
Pondo (Funds)	Mas malaki ang pondo, mas istrikto sa paglalahad (Bigger funds; fully accounted)	Kaunti lang ang pondo, hindi istrikto sa pagrereport ng pera (less funds, the money is not fully accounted)
Discipline	Mas istrikto, mas mabigat ang parusa. Have a more strict discipline, more sever punishments	Mas matitigas ang ulo ng mga querna. Di takot sa panunungkulan Inmates are more unruly. Inmates are not afraid of officers.
Structure	May mga asintado, mas mabigat na panuntunan sa mga bantay pinto There are inmate body guards especially for nanunungkulan	Walang mga asintado, mas maluwag sa bantay pinto No need for inmate bodyguards. They have no enemies
Pag-aaruga (Care for fellow inmates)	Mas naalagaan ang mga kakosa. The fellow inmates or kakosa are well taken cared off	Kanya-kanya mentality The inmates are own their own mentality

The *pangkat* and the *Querna* agree that joining a *pangkat* has a lot of advantages. They concur that the *pangkat* is a home away from home. However, they equally agree, that once they are members of the *pangkat*, they also submit themselves to the rules and regulations of the *pangkat*. They are aware that they could be subjected to the basag or breaking one’s skull should they commit a very grave offense.

Synthesis:

The *pangkat* structure is the resultant culture born out of the need for survival and security. Many inmates fear their commitment to the jail, thanks to the common notions portrayed by the media that it is the place of the *halang ng kaluluwa* or the place of the soulless. This fear of the unknown forces the inmates to be in search of persons who will provide them company.

The *pangkat* plays an important role in providing a sense of security to the members. It gives the inmates protection from the elements that wish to destroy them. It shelters the inmates from the cold floor and nourishes the inmates with jail wisdom or “*mga aral ng kulungan*”. It

gives the inmate a sense pride to be a member of a *pangkat* with glorious tradition. It gives the inmate a sense of responsibility for he will be one day part of the *pangkat* leadership structure.

The *pangkat* culture pervades the police system of inmate governance. Inmates committed in the police stations are systematically drawn to the *pangkat*. This is so as the less discerning of the inmates can be easily be swayed into joining one even if they do not know what it really means to be member. The police manner of extracting information from the inmates where brute force is commonly employed necessitates the growth of the *pangkat*.

As such, the Bureau of Jail Management and d Penology in the Quezon City Jail simply takes on from the cue of the police. Instead of segregating inmates according to the mandates of the jail Manual, that is by offense charged against an inmate, they classify inmates according to *pangkat*. Coupled with the inherent limitations of the jail bureau, the *pangkat* structure is by default recognized. They now form part a key custodial function in the jail.

Eventually, when the inmates are convicted and transferred to Muntinglupa, the *pangkat* structure takes an even more dominant role.

Thus, the jail governance is intertwined with the *pangkat* governance and culture.



Participants sharing their insights on the tattoo found in their bodies



Members of Sigue-Sigue Sputnik, Batang City Jail and Sigue-Sigue Commando display the common tattoos found in their members.



A proud member of the Sigie-Sigie Commando posting their icon, the musang or tiger face

PRA activities with jail volunteers

Introduction

There are active socio-civic and religious volunteers rendering services in the Quezon City Jail. They provide spiritual, medical, educational, livelihood, paralegal and material services to the inmates. They complement the reformation efforts of the jail officers.

There are NGOs that are permanent in their outreach programs. This includes the PRESO Foundation, the UP Ugnayan ng Pahinungod and the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM). There are also semi-permanent, or volunteers who conduct their outreach programs depending on the availability of their organization's resources. They have programs once in every month or so. Other volunteers come in one-shot basis, or those volunteers that would conduct programs for special occasions.

The jail volunteers could come as an organization or as individuals. They could choose from the many programs that are available. They have to coordinate with the Rehabilitation Section of the Jail and see if their programs fit the overall needs of the jail.

There are some jail volunteers who had stayed in jail for long periods of time such that they already know the nature of jail work inside out.

Purpose of the PRA activities:

The purposes of the PRA activities among the jail volunteers are threefold:

1. To determine the conditions of the volunteers in the jail's reformation programs
 - a. The roles that they play
 - b. The challenges that they encountered in the conduct of their work
 - c. The solutions that they evolved in order to meet the challenges
2. To determine the relationship between the volunteers and the inmates and the jail officers
 - a. The areas of convergence where they could help each other
 - b. The areas of divergence where there are points of conflict
3. To portray the conditions of the penal system by looking at the performance of the volunteers in the Jail.

PRA activities number one

Determining the reasons for being a jail volunteer

Methodology

The jail volunteers were interviewed on their reasons for volunteering in the jail. The interviews were done by groups of two to three members, while others have a one on one interview. For purposes of presentation, however, their answers were aggregated to portray a holistic picture of their concerns.

Most of the interviews were conducted in the volunteer's area in the **Sambayanang Maka-Diyos** office.

Results:

Reasons for volunteering

1. It is God's call

Most of the volunteers share that the number one reason why they volunteer in the jail is because of the divine call that they received from the Lord. Many volunteers saw the pathetic conditions of inmates in the jail and they felt the need to act on it. The biblical passage that says, "when did I see you in prison and not visit you" is a challenge for them. This is the reason why most of the volunteers have a religious component in their programs.

This despite the fact they fear the common notions about jails that is a haven for riots and unruly inmates.

2. Self fulfillment

The volunteers also feel a sense of fulfillment every time they conduct their activities in the jail. They see that the inmates appreciate much of their efforts. Having time with the inmates gave the volunteers opportunity to observe the inmates' behavior and eventually to be a part of their transformations.

3. Source of income

Some volunteers admit that working for the jail has also its financial rewards. They believe that being of service to others, God will take care of their needs. The many supporters of their jail work are lavish in their financial assistance as long as they deliver the promised results. From this assistance they get money for their personal upkeep.

4. Vision and Mission of the organization

There are also some volunteers who come in jail in order to fulfill the mandates of their organizations. Since they are members of a socio-civic organizations, they felt that they have to visit the less privileged members of the society, the jails being a part of it.

5. Social duty

There are also volunteers who say it is their social duty to be involved in the campaign against crime. As such, they have to help the criminals in order to change their ways. Accordingly, the volunteers would want to erase the negative image that is associated with the jails.

PRA activities number 2

The work and functions of a jail volunteer

The volunteers were asked to describe the nature of work they have in jail. These were:

1. Spiritual Services

Most of the volunteers center their work on the spiritual needs of the inmates. They make use of the chapel and they sometimes go inside the cells to conduct prayer meetings, bible sharing, bible studies and the like. They also conduct spiritual counseling for the inmates.

The most common way to attract the inmates to join in spiritual activities is to bring food, slippers, soaps, and other toiletries for the inmates. In jail, these are called *palakad*. The volunteers observe that many inmates are in need of these articles such that it is the best come on for the inmates. This becomes a reward to those who attended their programs. The volunteers believe that in order to mend the spirits of the inmates, their physical needs must be met first.

As such most of the volunteers would solicit for extra clothes, beddings and the like. The volunteers would compile all the donations and would send this articles by bulk. As such, as one volunteer said, they also become the “labandera, mananahi and kargadora” for the inmates.

2. Paralegal services

The second most prevalent activity among the volunteers is paralegal services. The volunteers would interview the inmates and ask the nature of problem of their cases. They would follow-up the cases in the courts to determine the date of next hearing, to set the promulgation of cases and the like. Also, the volunteers would be asked by the inmates to drop their letters for them. The volunteers would be providing for the stamps and the envelopes.

As a continuation of their paralegal work, they would also visit the homes of the inmates and talk to the inmates’ relatives and friends. They would ask the relatives to visit their family member in jail. At times, the volunteers admit, there would be a difficulty in locating the addresses of the inmates, especially among those who live in the squatter areas. The jail

volunteers would get the message of the family members and relay the messages back to the inmates.

3. Medical outreaches

The volunteers also give medical support for the inmates. They would solicit medicines from pharmaceutical companies and conduct medical outreach in the jail. They would coordinate with the jail medical section for this purpose.

At times too, when there is no water in the jail (because the water line bogged down,) the volunteers are tasked to bring water inside. They would personally carry water jugs for the inmates. For emergency cases, they would join the medical team in bringing the inmates to the hospitals.

4. Teaching

There are some volunteers who work in the educational programs in the jail. The Bureau of Non Formal Education is supporting the curricula of the program. There is also a weekly Value formation Seminar for the newly committed inmates. As teachers, they would also take care of the needs of the inmate-students. They follow up their cases and provide their needs like soaps and detergents.

5. Counseling

The volunteers also work as counselors for the inmates. This is especially true among inmates who have problems with their family relationships. Accordingly, many inmates experienced having their wives leaving for another man.

6. Advocacy

The volunteers are also working with other governmental and non-governmental agencies in order to popularize the plights of the inmates. They join groups that call for the better treatment of detainees and prisoners. They advocate issues, like the promotion of restorative justice, in order to solve the root problems of the over congestion in the jails.

Internally, they also advocate for a drug-free Quezon City Jail. Some volunteers professed that there are rampant trade of *shabu* inside the jail. They would discourage the inmates in taking drugs. However, they admit that this is not an ordinary problem, for why in all places, the illegal drugs could be bought as easy as buying candies in the store.

PRA activities number 3

Determining the challenges to the jail volunteer

The volunteers were asked to list down and describe the challenges of volunteer work.

Results:

The challenges faced by the volunteers

1. Lack of space to conduct programs

The volunteers admit that the number one problem that they face is the steadily diminishing area to conduct their programs. As it is, the volunteers only have the chapel area to conduct their programs. In here, the spiritual, educational, and cultural programs are all cramped. The volunteer teachers have to squeeze themselves in the schedule, as other groups would make use of the venue as well.

Lately, the livelihood area has to be reduced in order to give way for the construction of a mini-gym. As such, the volunteers are worried that their pet project would eventually fade away as many livelihood workers are displaced. Moreover, the NGO area has to be transferred into a still smaller place by the jail officers. This is so as all available spaces are transformed into becoming cells in order to accommodate the inmates' growing population.

2. Lack of funding

There are volunteers who profess to serve the jail well but unfortunately have to deal with insufficient funds. As such, they would have to solicit around for additional finances. Many of their programs have also to be temporarily shelved when their donor agencies are tight in budget.

3. Conflict with the jail officer's custodial functions

The jail custodial function inherently restrains the movements of the inmates in order to minimize escape and other disturbances. This function runs head on against the volunteers' efforts for reformation. This is so as the volunteers would require inmate participation and movements. As such, the volunteers would continually seek to let the inmates out of their cells, while the custodial officers would continually check that the inmates' movement be properly monitored.

This conflict in the nature of work sometimes translates in personal conflicts among the volunteers and jail officers. Some volunteers would interpret the jail officers' actions as "*walang pakialam*" or without concern while, the jail officers would also complain that the volunteers are encroaching in their work. Sometimes, the conflict becomes chronic such that, the programs of the volunteers are sabotaged and the volunteers also complain to higher authorities.

4. Problems with the inmates

The volunteers also complain of the problems with the inmates. They reported that there are some inmates who do not value the services given them. The volunteers still have to beg the inmates in order to help them or "*kailangan pang akong lumuhod sa kanila para sila ay tulungan.*"

For example, a volunteer was so disheartened that an inmate, after receiving a pair of sleepers, sold the sleepers to his *kaselda* just to have money to buy cigarettes. Similarly, there are some inmates who would line up to receive medical assistance even if they are not sick, thus depriving the sickly inmates, in order to procure medicines that could be traded for their vices.

Some volunteers also complain that the little provisions that they bring inside the jail become the source of conflict among the inmates. This is so as the *pangkat* become envious of the *palakad* that is given to another *pangkat*. For example, there was an NGO who conducted a medical outreach in the jail. Unfortunately, the possible recipients could only be as many as a hundred inmates. The NGO volunteers, who were naïve of the inmates' political structure, gave their services only to one *pangkat*. (For the volunteers, they are all inmates regardless of affiliation) The *pangkat* that were not given medical assistance complained against the perceived "favoritism" and the complaint had nearly become the source of a riot.

Also, the volunteers could not escape the gossip mill or *bundulan* inside the jail. Most of the inmates would indulge themselves in "*tsismis*" and would question where the volunteers placed all the money that they solicited in their behalf. Some volunteers complain that inmates' expect them to produce all their needs since, according to the inmates, the volunteers solicit in their names. As one volunteer said, "*parang may ipinatago sila sa amin.*" Some inmates would call a volunteer a "*buraot volunteer*" if the said volunteer fail to give requests of the inmates needs.

This becomes more complicated during periods of conflict among the inmates. Since the trouble could pose a security problem among the volunteers, most of their projects are easily moved for another date. As such, their projects could be delayed. Worst is when the inmate leaders would want to make a statement against the jail management and they would paralyze the volunteers' activities. They are caught in the middle.

5. Problems with other volunteers

a. Lulubog-lilitaw (in and out volunteers)

The volunteers observed that there are some volunteers who go to the jail and initiate programs but do not sustain it. As such, the inmates are given false promises and the more that they loose hope. For example, there are volunteers who would interview inmates about their cases and promise to follow it up but never showed up. As such, the inmates who cling on to their promise would think that the paralegal volunteers are futile. When the more legitimate paralegal volunteers come, the inmates would no longer trust the volunteers.

b. Feel good-ers and publicity conscious

There are also some volunteers who go to the jail and truly sympathize with the inmates' conditions. As such, they would propose solutions to the problems of the inmates but done with little research. As such, the proposed solutions are off-tangent to the inmates needs. For example, a government agency discovered that the food of the inmates is poorly prepared as there is lack of cooking utensils. As such, the government agency donated a high technology rice cooker. However, it turned out, this could not be effectively used. Using the high technology rice cooker would indeed prepare the food better, but it will take a longer period of time before all the inmates could be served. And a hungry stomach will no longer differentiate how a food is prepared. As such, the old utensils were used. The high tech became a good display.

Worse is when the volunteers visit the jail, donate for the inmates needs, and then get candid shots for publicity purposes. The legitimate volunteers feel that they are doing the projects not for the benefit of the inmates but for themselves.

c. Over solicitations and Fly by night NGOs

There are volunteers who complain of the unscrupulous practice of some of their fellow volunteers who would use the plight of the inmates in order to generate funds. They would solicit from all over or form an NGO, have it incorporated, and then portray itself to be a non-profit organization in service of the inmates. They would gather data from the inmates; they would pose for a picture with the inmates in their crowded cells in order to depict the pathetic situation that the inmates are in. Then they would give project proposal with the corresponding financial needs of the program to funding agencies here and abroad. But when the project is approved and the funding given, they would release only a portion of it. For the unsuspecting inmates, even a minimal assistance, like receiving a pair of sleepers, will be manna from heaven. The inmates are thus satisfied even if what they are supposed to receive is seed money to start a livelihood project.

This practice becomes a source of conflict among the volunteers and inmate leaders who are wary of the purposes of the NGOs. A worst scenario happens when the inmate leaders work in connivance with the unscrupulous NGOs. Being the inmate leader, they could sign documents that say the inmates received the goodies and funds when in truth, it is only the volunteers and the inmate leaders who partook of the loot.

d. Turf war

The volunteers also recorded that sometimes the conflict with other volunteers translates into a turf war. This is especially true among the religious.

There are religious volunteers who go in the jail, preach the words of God, bring some food and then proselytize the inmates. This is especially true among the non-Catholic inmates. They would baptize the inmates and proclaim them as their members. As such, the jail becomes their recruiting ground.

This practice is strongly opposed by the Catholic volunteers as most of the converts come from their flock. They would pressure the jail officers to ban from entering the non-Catholics who proselytize the inmates. And since the chapel is a Catholic chapel, they would also sometimes deny the use of the chapel to the other volunteers.

e. Common law wife

There are volunteers who feel passionately for the conditions of the inmates and become personally involved in an inmate's life. The inmates and the volunteers would eventually fall for each other. As such, the volunteers would become the inmate's common law wife in the jail.

The legitimate volunteers strongly feel against this practice as it smacks the reputation of all the other volunteers. This is especially true when the inmates are already married. The volunteer work is seen as a venue to find a mate.

f. Partisanship among volunteers

The volunteers also lament the practice of some volunteers who would be involved in the political struggle among the inmates and take sides on the inmate issues. As such, their work is compromised, as they should be aboveboard.

g. Involvement in nefarious trade

Also, there are volunteers who complain that some volunteers become so enmeshed with the inmate's system that they become part of the inmates' social structures. They would become an ally of a particular *pangkat*. Eventually, there are volunteers, (who because of their stature are exempted from frisking in the jails gate) who sneak in contraband in the jail. And in the complicate web of give and take relationship, the jail officers would allow the volunteers to do the infractions. In return, the volunteers would also keep their mouth shut in the things they see in the jail.

h. Incoherent reformation activities

Due to the combination of the factors stated above, the volunteers have incoherent programs for reformation. They develop programs based on the needs of the moment and not on a long term plan.

Synthesis

The jail volunteers play an important role in the reformation projects in the jail. They feel in the gaps of the Bureau by providing additional resources and manpower to the jail. They also play a key role in transforming the minds of the people to accept the inmates back to the society.

However, the physical limitations of the jail put the efforts of the jail volunteers on hold. Though teachers may want to teach, there is simply very small place to squeeze themselves in.

Also, the very nature of the rehabilitation function requires that inmates be given movements and participation in their activities. This inherently runs counter with the custodial functions where inmates are constantly checked and secured. Given the limited resources, there is a constant point of conflict that may ensue.

Added to this is when the jail becomes vulnerable to the unscrupulous individuals who may post as jail volunteers. These fly by night NGO's solicit money in the name of the inmates and then disappears when they have the funds.

This becomes complicated when the volunteers, wittingly or unwittingly, have become part of the jail's political and social structure. As such, there are volunteers who become part of the power play inside the jail.

What we have therefore is a limited, disparate and one-shot deal programs for reformation. The inmates are not given a holistic program from the time of their commitment to the time of their release or transfer to other penal institutions where they could follow.

Thus, the best efforts of the jail volunteers are minimal. As the teacher in the Literacy Class Program mentioned, "even if you teach the inmate the proper values in class, if when he goes back to his crowded cell, the order of the day is how to survive, he will lecture you, that those things learned here are not applicable."



A jail volunteer poses with gay inmates during the freedom day celebrations

Integration of the PRA activities

The different PRA activities reveal a clear and detailed reality in the Quezon City Jail. This reality is likened to a boiling pot.

The boiling pot is a very important tool in the QC Jail. This is where the inmates' food is prepared. The *rancheros* would line up every morning in order to take their rations from it. For those without visitors and who rely on the *rancho*, the boiling pot is a symbol of life.

In this analogy, the firewoods are the root causes of the problem. It is where the original difficulty arose. The firewoods reflect the prevailing social, political, and cultural values of the day with regards to jail conditions.

The firewoods are in constant friction against each other and then eventually produce fire. The fire represents the structural responses of the inmates, the jail officers, volunteers, visitors, and others who have a stake in the penal system. It represents the coping mechanisms the jail community evolved in order to meet their daily struggles. The fire simply emanates from the firewood and as such, only an offshoot of the problem. Used properly, the fire is an important tool for life. Used improperly, it is a tool for destruction.

Now, the fire heats up the pot. A heating pot could be used for boiling water. And boiling water could be used for purposes of goodness and evil. This now reflects the two faces of the jail. For while the jail intends to be reformatory in nature, because of the inherent limitations, there are trade offs done in the process.

The water finally boils and about to break loose. This now reflects the condition of the jail in perpetual conflict. For while the full weight of the jail's limitation is ever growing, the coping structures that were put up are equally working. As such, it takes an enlarging pool of

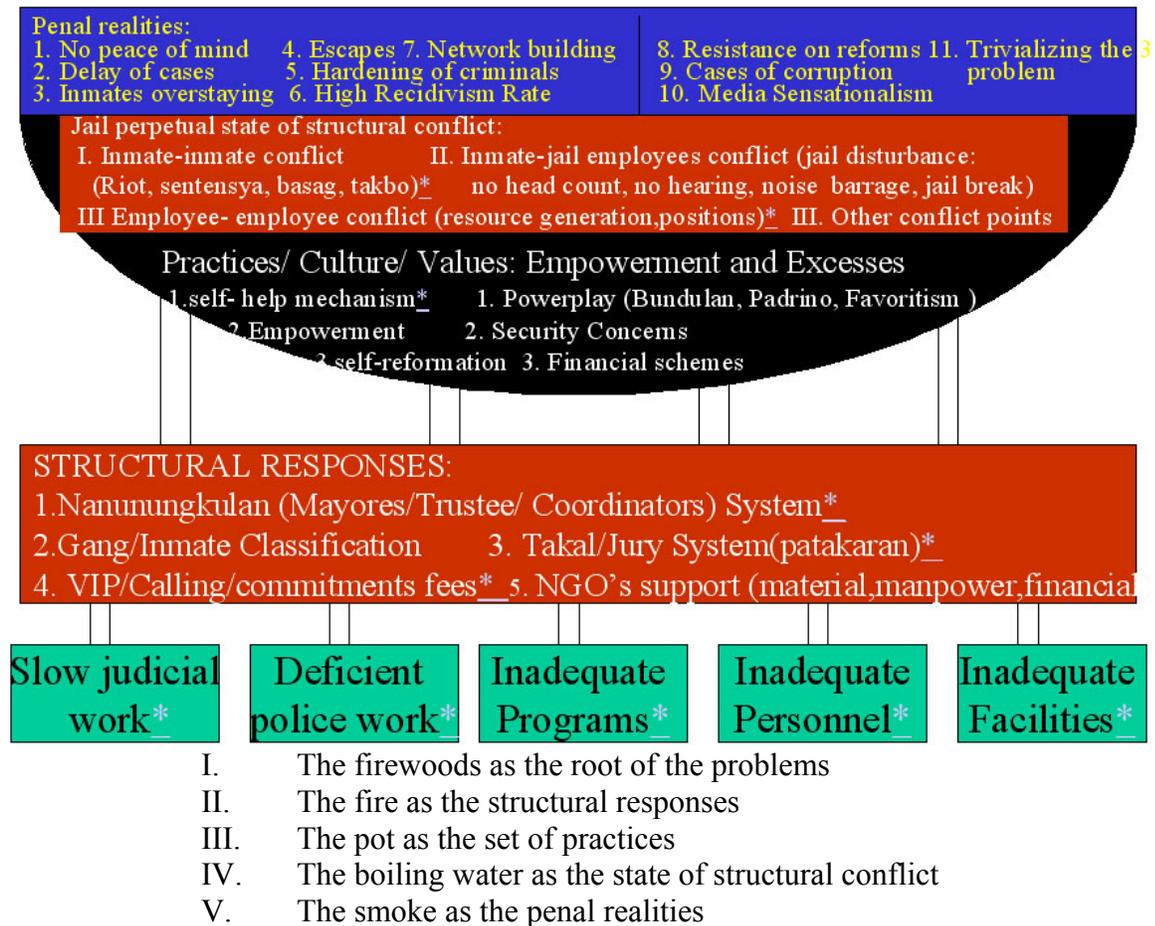
punitive policies in order to check the expanding discontent. It is like a volcano about to emit its lava, yet it cannot explode.

And so the boiling pot produces a putrid smell, a gyrating sound, a black smoke, and other characteristics. This is now what the ordinary bystander sees about the jails. This is the story the movies are usually made of. And this is now portrayed as the realities of the jail.

Little did they know, that there is more truth than meets the eye.

Boiling pot

[Boiling Pot](#)



I. The firewood as the root cause of the problems

A. Inadequate facilities

As the jail officers, inmates, and volunteers reported, the number one problem is the very limited facilities. As of the present, there are 3200 inmates who are cramped in a building that could ideally accommodate 700 inmates. That is four times more than the capacity of the jail. As such, the cell capacity is stretched to receive as many as 120 inmates in a cell that is good only for ten people.

Also, the basic facilities like a mess hall, visiting, livelihood and recreation areas are almost non-existent. As the jail officers lament, this is unfortunate as a jail is a facility-based institution.

This limitation in facility is coupled with the inadequacy of equipment. The jail officers reported that they are continually lacking in handcuffs and firearms, the very essence of the custodial functions. The jail transport vehicles, which is central for bringing inmates in the court, has time and again, been inadequately provided. The office workers likewise conveyed that there is a perennial scarcity in supplies and other office equipment.

This condition further deteriorates because of the lack of the basic provisions. The jail budget for food per inmate per day is P40.00, thanks to the P10.00 subsidy from the City Government. But still, the said amount is minimal. Moreover, the Jail Bureau cannot make available the basic necessities like clothings, beddings, and toiletries. The inmates have also to make do with the P56 per inmate per year budget for medicines.

The number one casualty here is the physical, psychological, and emotional conditions of the inmates. There is overcrowdedness, poor ventilation, and lighting. As such, many inmates become sickly and mentally emaciated. This physical condition drives the inmates to find a means to endure. The inmates have to struggle for the limited resources— of the space near the electric fan, of the area near the window to get fresher air, etc, just to survive.

As what the inmates said in their PRA activities, this life is a hellhole. “*Angbuhay kulungan ay isang impyerno.*”

B. Inadequate Personnel

The shortage of facilities is further aggravated by the insufficiency of personnel. The jail Manual ideal ratios are not met. Accordingly, there should be one custodial officer in every seven inmates. The reality however, even if all the jail guards (totalling 153 personnel) work as custodial officers, the ratio would still be 1 is to 18.

The inadequacy of personnel is made most apparent in the escort service of the jail. This is the most vulnerable aspect of the custodial work since the inmates are in transit. There could be organized groups that plan to rescue the inmates and overpower the jail escorts. As such, the ideal ratio is that the escorts should always be more than the number of inmates. (1 plus 1 is to one). However, in reality, an escort officer sometimes guards as many as 20 inmates in court. As one jail officer remarks, “if we follow the ideal set by the Manual, and then there are 250 inmates who will attend the hearing, there must be at least 251 escort officers. Even if all jail officers

leave their other works, do not go home and compulsary complement the escort officers, the number of jail officers is still lacking, because that there are only 153 personnel all in all.”

As such, many of the jail officers have to work double or triple their workload in order to meet the descriptions of their job. Unfortunatley however, the jail officers are not compensated of the additional efforts that they have done. Worst, the jail officers admitted that the full brunt of the law applies against them when infractions happen.

As a result, most of the jail officers are lowly motivated and there are some who would want to transfer to other agencies, if given the chance. The individual talents of the jail guards in effect, are not fully maximized for the jail’s programs.

C. Inadequate programs

Due to the shortage of the facilities and personnel, the jail cannot fully put into practice its reformation programs for the inmates.

The classification of the inmates according to their needs, as mandated by the jail Manual, which is the foundation of the reformation programs, is not implemented. First time offenders and recidivists share the same cell and the healthy and sickly inmates use a common eating utencils. Due to the lack of available spaces, the inmates are classified, by default, according to *pangkat* affiliation.

Also, since the rehabilitation and paralegal officers have to attend to other more basic functions like escorting, the programs that they handle are continually disrupted. As such, the programs for reformation are not prioritized.

This is made more intricate when, there are jail officers who introduce innovations into their work, yet they find out out that they have to shed money from their own resources just to make the programs moving. The jail officers have to provide for the office supplies, prizes for their activities and transportation expenses in following up to activities. As such, as one jail officer said, “it takes a lot of idealism to stay in the Bureau.” Many of the jail officers, after serving for a couple of years, have found themselves lowly motivated. Sooner or later, this results to lower productivity.

These three structural limitations of the jail— the inadequacy of facilities, personnel, and programs is a by-product of the low priority given to our penal agencies. As such, the jail bureau is the least budgeted of all government organizations.

This low prioritization, the members of the jail community lament, emanates from the fact that society takes a disconcerting look at the plight of people behind bars. The common belief is that, “since these felons committed heinous crimes anyway, then they should rot in jail.”

D. Deficient police work

These internal deficiencies of the Jail are made more difficult due to the deficient police work. The inmates and jail officers alike complain of the methods and practices of the police that have a carry over in the jail administration.

First, the inmates complain of the different forms police operandi that violates the basic rights of the accused to due process. Among those reported by the inmates include: warrantless arrest, frame up, trump up charges, *patong ng kaso*, *hulidap*, bribery, and *palit-ulo*. The inmates also complain, that the police have the penchant to use the state power in order to inflict personal punishment into their person. That is why, torture is reported to be happening in most of the police stations in Quezon City. Also, with the relative ease of filing charges against a suspect, like the planting of evidence in drug related offenses, the jail has become the convenient instrument of the police to threaten suspects in to settling the case, or the full brunt of state power be mobilized against the suspects.

As such, many inmates eventually turn out innocent or dismissed by the court. For one, the inmates could simply be a victim of the police negligent investigation. This is so as the inmates are victims of the *palit ulo* and *patong ng kaso* modus operandi. Or the inmates may have committed the crime but the police bungled the handling of the case. This is validated by the findings that 18% of the cases are found guilty by the courts whereas 82% are eventually dismissed or acquitted.

The harsh manner of handling the suspects in the police stations and the practice of using inmates to harm their fellow inmates have resulted to the formations of *Pangkat* in the jail. Coupled by the use of *assets*, the inmates reported that they seek the protection of the *pangkat* so that their fellow inmates may spare them from further harm.

The formation of the *pangkat* now ties the hand of the jail bureau when the said inmates are transferred to the jail. Since the inmates have already formed alliances, it would be a security problem in the city jail when they group together inmates with different affiliations.

Also, the jail officers suffer from the way the police makes the jail the dumping ground of their arrested persons. This is especially true when the police could no longer extract resources from the said inmates. There were also instances that the police simply disregard basic documents, like an inmate's birth certificate and transfer the inmates to the jail just to unburden their cells. The inmate's real age eventually turn to be below 18 years of age and should have been committed to the juvenile institutions.

E. Slow judicial work

Another external factor that serve as the root cause of the penal problem is the slow dispensation of justice. Fifty percent of the inmates in jail had been staying there for more than a year. The average stay in jail among non-bailable inmates is 3.2 years. In Quezon City Jail, there are 14 inmates who had been staying in jail since 1995 or for a period of more than eight years. Should they be found innocent, they have already suffered.

The delay in the cases is brought by many factors. Among those reported by the inmates and the jail officers is the lack of judges and lawyers who handle the cases. In the Quezon City Hall of Justice, a trial court judge handles an average of 1000 cases per sala. And at times, a judge even handles two salas. The Public Attorneys Office or PAO lawyers who handle an average of 150 cases also match this. This is not to include other civil and labor cases that are also given to PAO lawyers. At times too, the PAO lawyers have to attend to two or three more courts.

As such, an inmate has a hearing in every two months. However, due to lack of material time, the absence of witnesses, and non-appearance of the police officers and complainants, most of the hearings are postponed.

Eventually, the inmates stay in jail longer than the maximum impossible penalty. There are inmates charged of stealing a pair of sleepers who end up in jail for more than a year.

As an easy way out, most of the inmates admit guilt just to avail of lower penalties and thus they could be qualified for probation. The PAO lawyers could only facilitate their plea bargain even if the accused may have the chance to be acquitted.

These factors: the inadequate facilities, personnel and programs and the deficient police work and slow disposition of cases are the root causes of the problems in jail. These factors are like firewoods that are in constant friction against each other. Eventually, there is fire.

II. The fire as the structural responses

The basic conditions of the inmates had produced a coping mechanism for the inmates to meet their daily needs. They developed structures to make life bearable.

A. Inmate *Nanunungkulan* (Mayores, Coordinators, Trustee) system

Due to the inadequacy of jail officers, the inmates evolved as system of leadership structure in the jail. This is called the *Nanunungkulan* System.

There are three forms of *panunungkulan* in jail. These are the cell ***nanunungkulan***, who have custodial functions, the **coordinators** who are the link of the jail officers to the cells and as such perform reformatory functions and the jail **trustees**, who work at the personal employ of the jail officers and as such, serve as additional administrative functions.

The *nanunungkulan* are given the responsibility to look after the peace and order inside the cells. In particular, the *mayores* is responsible for the overall upkeep of all the inmates under his ward. The *nanunungkulan* are given the power to discipline their fellow inmates, to control the flow of inmates in out of the cells, and appropriate the resources of the cell.

In return, the *nanunungkulan* are given privileges that are not given to ordinary inmates. They have more freedom in movement and they are given priority in the use of the jail's limited facilities and resources.

Also, the inmates look up to the *nanunungkulan* and their positions are seen with prestige. As such, the *panunungkulan* gives a system of social premium where the inmates could all aspire and be part of.

The *nanunungkulan* system is thus the response to the inadequacy of the jail personnel. They perform custodial and administrative functions in order to keep the jail operations moving.

B. Pangkat or Gang Classification and Inmate Stratification

Another structure that the inmates evolved is the *pangkat* or gang classification and inmate stratification. This is based on the social and financial status of the inmates.

The *pangkat* emerges from the needs of the inmates for security. The brutality of the police in their investigation stage forces many of the inmates to be lured to the promises of the *Pangkat*. The inmates are promised that they be provided with security. As such there are inmates who never knew what the *symbols* mean when they allowed themselves to be tattooed, and belatedly discovered that it already meant *pangkat* affiliation when they are already in jail. (This is contrary to the belief that all tattooed inmates are hardened criminals.)

Though the brutality of the police is not present in the practice of the jail officers, nonetheless, the daily struggles for better living quarters, for improved food and other resources, necessitated the formation of *pangkat* in the city jail.

Also, as stated above, since the police already turned over the inmates to the jail bureau with tattoos already in their bodies, the jail bureau by default, classifies the inmates according to *pangkat* affiliation.

The *pangkat* however, has a different dynamics when it is already in the city jail. They work for mutual support for each other and functions like a brotherhood. As such, they would prefer themselves to be called a *pangkat* and not a gang.

Also, the *pangkat* has stricter and more enforceable rules than the *Querna* on non-affiliated members. The jail officers' custodial hold over the *pangkat* member is less compared to the *Querna*. The *pangkat* is more autonomous in their implementation of rules.

Social Stratification

The *pangkat* and *querna* alike also distinguish from two kinds of inmates: the **VIPs** or **very important presos** and the **buyoneros** or **lost boys**. The VIPs are inmates who are constantly visited and as such they have the resources to pay a weekly contribution to the cell funds. In return, the *VIPs* are exempted from work duties. The lost boys on the other hand, are inmates who do not have regular visitors or those who are incapable to pay the weekly fees. As such, the lost boys clean the comfort room or *buyon* and are also called *buyoneros*. They are tasked to fetch water, cook the food and to run errands for the VIP's. The VIP system is the foundation of the financial structure of the inmates.

C. Patakaran, Jury and Takal system

The inmate *nanunungkulan* and the social classification is further fortified by the presence of the **Batas ng Kulungan** as practiced by the inmates. These are set of rules and regulations, which through the years have become part of the inmates' traditions and practices.

First is the *Patakaran*. The *patakaran* are rules and regulations that guide the conduct of all the inmates in the jail. The *patakaran* is the penal code that sets how the inmates should relate to one another, to the jail officers and to the visitors. The *patakaran* delineates the acceptable and unacceptable conduct in the cells. As such, its adherence means that there should be conformity and compliance of actions.

Should there be violations in the said *patakaran*, the inmate jury (for the *pangkat*) or the cell *mayor* and *bastonero* (for the *querna*) will conduct investigation and determine if there are guilty parties. There are set of procedures that have to be followed, like hearing the two sides of the issue or if the complained-inmate pleads guilty or not. The *jury*, who are supposed to be impartial, determine the guilt of the complained-inmate.

Should there be parties who are at fault, a set of punishments is meted to the erring inmates. This could be in a form of *takal* or paddling the feet.

The *pangkat* classification and the *patakaran* system is the structural response of the inmates to the absence of a clear program of conflict mediation. In order to control the brewing tensions in inside the cells, the inmate leaders are empowered by the jail officers to impose maximum penalty on those who may have posed security problems in the cell.

D. The VIP/ Calling/ Commitment and other fees

Another structure that the inmates have evolved is the VIP system. Inmates are asked to contribute in the cells funds and to support the projects of the officers.

There are many other fees that could be collected from the VIPs. These include the commitment fees, which is similar to tuition fees of newly enrolled students. This all depends on the personal capability of the inmates. The more affluent inmates are charge more. In a sense it is a socialized form of inmate assistance. Other fees include calling (everytime an inmate has a

visitor) VIP (the weekly contribution) *palakpak* or the contribution for inmates who are about to be transferred to Muntinglupa Penitentiary.

The amount generated from the inmates will form part of the cell funds. The said amount will be used to buy medicines for the sickly inmates, for the *pamasahe* of escort officers every time a fellow inmate is brought to the hospital and other inmates needs. The cell funds are used for the well being of the inmates.

The power over the funds is rested over the *mayor* of the cell or the *mayores* of the *Brigada*. The amount is be properly documented and recorded. During Sunday meetings, the treasurer shall report where all the money were used.

The VIP system is the structural response of the inmates to the limited budget that is given to the bureau. Though the fund is in itself not enough, it goes a long way in meeting the day-to-day needs of the cell. The power of the purse, which lies in the hand of the *mayor* gives him the discretionary control on where to use the cell's limited resources.

E. The roles of the volunteers and the visitors

The volunteers and the visitors likewise fill in the inadequacy of the jail. These groups provide additional material, manpower, and financial support to the jail service. Through a system known as *palakad*, inmates are given clothings, beddings, toiletries and other necessities. They complement the programs for reformation and operations of the jail.

As such, there are wives of inmates, called *purchasers*, who run errands for inmate needs. They had been a mainstay of the jails. Though, the policy of the present warden had been to allow the families to stay only during visiting hours, many of the families stay near the jail, and during day time, are mainstays of the cells.

As such, the presence of visitors means a lot to the inmates. For without a visitor, the inmate has to rely on his fellow inmates for his basic necessities. It also means that no one would be following up his cases.

III. The pot as a set of practices

The structural responses of the inmates have paved the way for a set of practices, culture, and beliefs systems inside the cells. And like the hot water that could either be used in the proper or improper way, so is the set of practices in jail.

There are jail terms and phrases that have evolve in the jail through time. The words like *buryong* or boredom, *takal* or paddle and *mayores* or inmate leader, have cemented the structural resposes of the inmates and sipped in to the inmate mentality. It is the glue that gelled all the actions in to a unified whole. As such, the inmates fear and tremble every time they are called by the *mayores* of the *brigada*, (for that in itself means trouble) yet they also look up to the *mayores* as their own father (for the *mayores* is expected to be a good provider).

The culture and practices had develop two sides— that of empowerment and excesses.

On the side of empowerment

The inmates are given a mechanism to help themselves. When the bulbs are malfunctioning, they don't have to request from the warden to provide such. When they are sick, they could procure medicine from their own funds. The inmates thus become financially independent of the bureau and they could stand on their own.

The inmate *nanunungkulan* structures, where they are given the chance to exercise leadership, reaffirm their self worth. The inmates are given a sense of responsibility. To be called a *mayor*, a *tayman* or a *jury*, means a lot of prestige from their fellow inmates. As such, there is a value system where everyone could aspire and be part of.

Also, since, there is reformation programs offered by the volunteers, the inmates could join in the educational and cultural activities and thus improve themselves.

Also, the financial scheme allows inmates be economically viable. The enterprising inmates could come up with small business in the jail. The positions in the cell, when used wisely, could also be a source of income for the *nanunungkulan*. Especially for the *mayor*, who could maximize the cells resources in order to solicit money from the more affluent inmates. The apportioning of the *tarimas* or bed bunks can be used to generate income. And for those inmates who have languished in jail for longer periods of time and their resources depleted, they could find a way to sustain themselves in jail.

The excesses

On the other, due to the power accorded to the inmates, there arose power struggle among them. In jail this is called *bundulan*. As such the *nanunungkulan* is always in the look out on how to be in power. Should there be signs that an inmate is after his post, the *nanunungkulan* should use all the punitive measures available under his disposal to silence the potential threat to his throne. He has to ally himself on groups or personalities who could support him in his positions. As such, he has to develop long-term relationship with jail officers who could be his *padrino*. In return, the jail officers are assured of the inmates' continuing patronage.

As such, this gives rise the practice of *matik* and *hirit* among the inmates and the jail officers. In a complicate web of give and take relationship, the inmates and jail officers come into mutual support. For example, a jail officer would facilitate the inmates court paper, however, due to the lack of transportation funds from the bureau, the jail officers will have to ask for a *matik* from the inmate. The inmate would give the money, in exchange of the speedier facilitation of his case. This will be repeated again and again until a full trust and confidence is developed. The inmate could thus count on to the jail officer for future needs and the jail officer could count to the expanding power of his ward. Eventually, this leads to favoritism in the implementation of rules. At times too, to further cement the ties, there are jail officers who affiliate themselves with the *pangkat*.

Ultimately this leads to the fraternization of inmates and jail officers. The fraternization becomes the mechanisms why contrabands like liquor and drugs could easily sneak in the jail.

Also, due to the classification of the inmates according to *pangkat*, there is now a heightened problem on security. The *pangkat*, being autonomous, develops a self-contained world in their own brigade and maintains a tribalistic attitude towards other *pangkat*. They become militaristic, with the evolution of their warriors and armories. Since the *pangkat* are given power, the power is continually preserved and practiced. An inmate who feels aggrieved can seek the protection of the *pangkat*.

These has become the two face so the jail. For the structure has given the inmates a venue for self-empowerment, yet these same powers become unchecked and can ultimately be used for nefarious ends. When the bureau allowed the inmates to work on their behalf, it equally opened the floodgates to trade offs.

IV. The Boiling Water as the Jail in a perpetual state of structural conflict

The continuous application of fire now heats up the water in the pot. The boiling water reflects the tension that is inherent in the system. It is the depiction of a jail that is in a perpetual state of structural conflict.

The source of conflict had been on basic point: who controls the limited resources.

For one, there are conflicts among the inmates. The culture of *bundulan* now gives way to *silipan* and *tiryahan*, the most common pastime of the inmates. Since most of the inmates are idle, they would spend their time thinking and peddling ill motives against the inmates in power. But since, there is strict rule against rumor mongering, then the *bundoleros* should be very careful in not letting their names appear to be the *promoters* of the *bundulan*. As such, it is a common expression to hear among the inmates the phrase, “*Huwag na huwag kang lulutang.*”

Because of this practice, it pays that an inmate knows how to position himself in the daily intrigues in the cell. And for those who do not know how to dance to the tune of music, “*hindi marunong sumayaw as tugtog*” the inmate could receive the full brunt of cell’s authority. This could come in the form of *takal*, where an inmate is paddled, or *basag* where an inmates’ skull is crushed. At times, this practice leads to the death of the inmates.

Also, the *pangkat* could also be at conflict against each other. Traditionally, the main causes of conflict among the *pangkat* had been: who controls more space, who recruits more members and who have power over the markets for the contrabands. As long as the *pangkat* get along with these issues, then there would be inter *pangkat* peace in the jail.

There are also points of conflicts among the jail officers and inmates. For one, there are jail officers who do not adhere to the existence of the inmate *nanunungkulan* and the power they have over their fellow inmates. This is contrary to the jail rules and procedures. As such, the jail

officers would exercise and regain back their authority. The inmates, who had long been accustomed to their own set up, would interpret the actions as encroachments in their authority. A conflict ensues.

Also, there are jail officers who would equally like to be partitioned of their loot. Since the *nanunungkulan* are empowered to collect commitment fee from their fellow inmates, it is understood that some jail officers should also be partitioned in the sharing. Failure to do so would mean a jail officer–inmate conflict.

Furthermore, the jail officers could be at odds among each other. The inherent conflict between custodial and reformation functions, the assignment to the more juicy positions, (like the gate and the desk) the control over the businesses, (like who owns the billiard tables) the allocation of limited spaces (like who will be given a kubol or sleeping quarters) the favoritism played by higher ups (who will be promoted) and other issues, are the daily struggles of the jail officers.

The conflict points could have many forms. In intra-cell conflict, inmates could be subjected to *takal*, *basag*, *padlak* and *bartolina*. An inmate can also be given a *sentensya* that is tantamount to a death warrant. Though, this is seldom used, to the inmates' recollection, there are at least two *sentensya* every year in every *pangkat*, this leaves a tremendous fear among the inmates. Inmates who want to flee their cells before a punishment could be meted out against them could run to another *brigada* or to the warden's office to seek protection. In jail, this is called *takbo*.

The inter-*pangkat* conflict could result to jail riot. However, contrary to the media's common portrayal of a riot to be a face-to-face clash among a large number of rioters, the riot in jail involves only a few *sundalos* or *pangkat* warriors. Also, the riot only takes a few minutes in order to be quelled. The most popular instrument is *pana* or modified sling arrow. It sometimes results to the death of inmates.

The inmate-jail officer conflict could be in the form of civil disobedience in the jail. The inmate leaders could call for a sit down strike and they would not let inmates out during head counts. Other more active protest could be in the form of noise barrage. The inmate leaders could likewise order the inmates not to attend their hearings in order to paralyze jail functions.

Riots and other jail disturbance, however, could be used as a political tool inside the jail. This is so as the common practice among the Bureau Officials had been to relieve a warden immediately after a bloody encounter among the inmates. A warden, who had been dutiful in the implementation of the rules, (say against contrabands) could undermine the profitable arrangements between unscrupulous inmates and jail guards. As such, the jail officers and the inmates would peddle a *bundol* among the warring *pangkat*, or the *pangkat* leaders would sit over the little complaints of their *kakosa* and let it turn to a full blown riot. To give a more gory impact, it would be best when more inmates die. The dutiful warden is relieved, to the pleasure of the *promoters* .

There are wardens, however, who have grown accustomed to the inmate's tactics and developed a more punitive counter policy. Inmate leaders who show signs to be involved in jail disturbances are immediately transferred to Bicutan. As such, there are wardens who have practiced the jail's disciplinary tools in order to instill fear on the hearts of the inmates.

The policies have thus become more and more punitive. As the jail grows bigger by the day in terms of population, the jail becomes more retaliatory and suppressive in order to contain the brewing the conflicts.

V. The smoke as the penal realities

The boiling water now produces bubbles and smoke. It has sounds and smells that are alien to the sensibilities of outsiders. As such they would view the jail conditions with disdain. While, the portrayals are basically true, the outsiders would not know why and how such exists.

No peace of mind

Given the basic conditions of the inmates—the uncertainties of the case, the possibility of being meted out a penalty, of the strains in the family, coupled with the inadequate subsistence and the punitive jail policies, many inmates lose their sensibilities. These inmates are *buryong*, or they do not have a peace of mind, the central psychological concept in jail.

For any jail reformation project to succeed, it is best to incorporate this concept. As the inmates themselves have shown, many have joined religious, educational and livelihood activities not for the manifest purpose of reformation but to simply get away of the crowded cell to avoid "*buryong*." It is not an alarming practice then that inmates, after receiving a pair of sleepers, sell the said *palakad* and use the money to buy vices in the jail.

Delay in cases

Due to the inadequacy of judicial employees (PAO lawyers, prosecutors, court staffs) coupled with the tendency to imprisonment as the means to curb the rising tide of crime, there are more inmates than what the system can accommodate. Congress has the penchant to make offenses non-bailable or the bail too stiff (like the New Comprehensive Drugs Act). As such, the police arrest more suspects without looking at the capacity of the courts, the PAO lawyers and jails to process their papers.

This is further aggravated by the existing penal structures. As explained by the inmates in the many PRA activities, the powerless inmates could not find a means to follow up their cases if they are the lowly *buyoneros*. They have to ask permission from their *bantay pinto* before they could be out of the cells. They should seek the good graces of the *bastonero* before they could be given the go signal to go the records section and they must be in good terms with the *inmate escorts* to be protected from other *pangkat*. Also, the inmates could be a victim of the power struggle in the jail where a *pangkat* would not facilitate the release of the inmates just to bloat its

population for fear that the cell it controls will be given to other *pangkat*, if its population shrinks.

Inmates overstaying

On the other hand, there are inmates who purposefully delay their cases to stay longer in jail. A *pangkat mayores* once revealed that he usually declares that he is sick and incapable of attending the hearing. He said he is afraid that his case may be terminated so soon and he will be released. This is for the simple reason that, being a *mayores*, he generates income more than he could possibly generate when he is outside of jail.

The jail has created its own world where inmates have grown accustomed to it. And for those who maximize the system, they would rather stay and maintain their established positions.

Escapes

The mechanics of escape is rooted on two things: the basic limitations of the facilities and the fraternization of inmates and jail officers.

Even with the best efforts of the jail officers to guard the inmates—what with window grills that could be easily cut in to pieces, or the straw that is used for tying the inmates during transit that could be burnt by cigarettes— still, there are consummated escapes. This is so as escapes are accidents waiting to happen.

However, the authorities are quick to call for punishments on the so-called “erring” jail officers without a look at their situations. Worst is when there are legislative proposals to impose the penalty to the said jail officers the same penalty as maybe imposed to the escapee.

Also, there are some instances where due to the limitations of personnel and funds, the inmate’s resources are maximized. In return, the inmates and the jail officers establish trust and confidence towards each other. However, when the inmates are already entrusted certain privileges, they use this as a springboard to plan their escape.

Hardening of criminals

A common offshoot of the jail condition is the hardening of criminals. Inmates learn the tricks of criminal trade from their fellow inmates such information as: how to elude arrest, how to bribe the police, how to avail of probation and jail decongestion programs, etc. Inmates thus become experts in their chosen profession and are prepared to live the cycle of crime.

High recidivism rate

As such, the inmates are no longer afraid of the penal conditions and the jail no longer serves its deterrence purposes. For them to be in jail is a simple experience of “*pagbabakasyon*” or vacation and a reunion to friends and *kakosas* whom they had left behind. Besides, when the

inmate is committed in jail again, he will be considered a *tayman* and his advices are considered words of wisdom.

Also, most of the inmates had been identified by the police to be the common perpetrators of crimes. As such, even in instances that they are not involved, the released inmates are the easy suspects.

Network Building

The jail also becomes a venue for socialization and the expansion of network for the criminally inclined. Simple drug users are introduced to large-scale drug pushers and they establish contact when they are already out of jail. Petty snatchers and robbers could look out for big time bank robbers and kidnappers whom their *kakosa* endorsed them with. As such, inmates who are committed again, almost always have correspondingly heavier offenses.

Resistance on reforms

Due to the embedded set of practices, the inmates find it hard to change ways even if these will redound to their benefits. For example, there are jail officers who tried to remove the practice of *takal* since this is a clear violation of human rights. The jail officers proposed alternative forms of punishments. However, the inmates openly rejected the said proposals claiming that it is better to subject an erring inmate to the official policy of punishment (*takal*) than when an aggrieved inmate unofficially take the matters on his hands (*pag-amin*) or owning the murder of a person.

Cases of corruption

The jail's practices of *hirit* and *matik* are considered by outsiders to be a case of corruption. When an inmate gives money to the jail guard to facilitate his case, that will be tantamount to receiving gifts, and as such a violation of the jail Manual.

In jail however, this is the natural and logical way to do things. Both the inmates and the jail officers are benefited and it redounds to the elimination of conflicts.

Media sensationalism

The practices in jail are taken out context and portrayed in glowing terms just to satiate the interest of people in the penal institution. Inmates who play basketball and their game turning ugly would be portrayed as a full blown riot where the cause of the fracas is as simple as a failed lay up to the goal. The media would picture the tattoos found in the inmate bodies as their affiliation in the dreaded gangs, the *panas* to be the instruments of destruction and the naïve comments of the rioters to be the reasons of war. Little did the media know that the whole incident is a set up by some unscrupulous inmates and jail officers who are at odds with other

inmates and jail officers. The media is unwittingly used in the political struggle inside the jail community.

Trivializing the problem

As such, the small problems in the jails—like the outbreak of boils, the overcrowdedness, jail riots, the daring escapes of sensationalized suspects, the drug trade, etc, are seen as trivial occurrences. It does not merit the attention of the policy makers as a deep manifestation of the structural problem of the penal institution. These issues come into life only when the media covers them. When the issue died down, they will be forgotten. Until of course, when another news worthy occurrence happen again.

Summary:

The jail is like a boiling pot. The basic inadequacies give rise to structures that support the failing system. In return, there are trade offs that emerges. These trade offs become the source of tension in the jail where the conflict points could be manifested in the jail disturbances. The fragmented problems have now become the common portrayals of the jails.

Research Findings:

1. The Development of a Punitive Penal Institution

The Penal Institution, as shown by the experience of the Quezon City Jail (QCJ) is punitive rather than rehabilitative:

- The basic reformation functions are not carried because of inadequate facilities, personnel and programs;
- The development of structures, culture and way of life that are necessary to support the basic inadequacies resulted to a deviation from the ideal of a reformatory institution;
- The main concern had been to contain the growing tensions in the jail community, which requires more punitive and repressive jail governance.
- The main casualties are both the inmates and jail officers for they are locked in a dynamic of conflicts, which they themselves, could not comprehend.

2. The Development of “Unique Jail Management”

However, given all the limitations of the Penal Institution, as shown by the experience of the Quezon City Jail, it did not collapse:

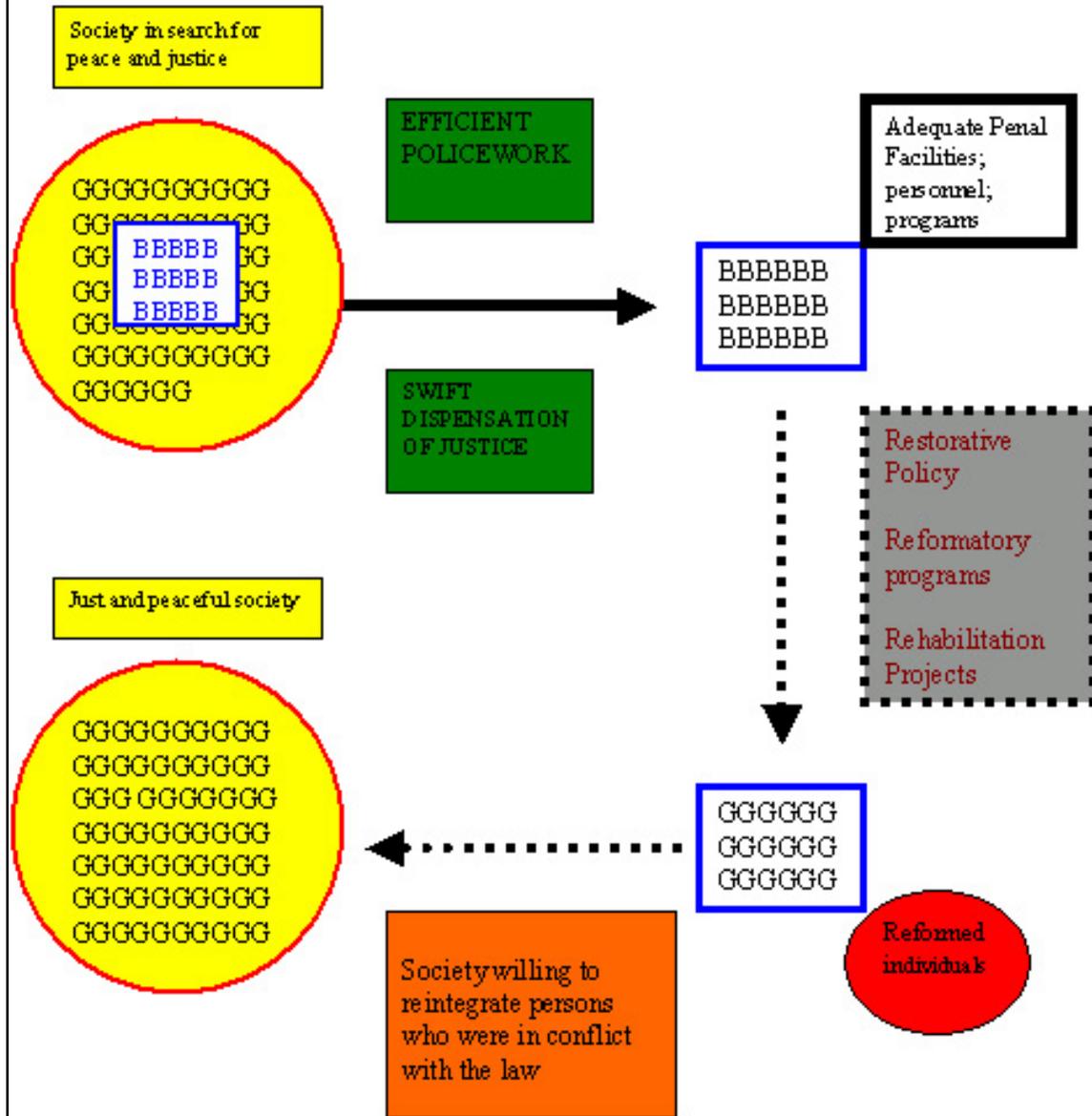
- The coping structures like the **Nanunungkulan**, the **Batas ng Kulungan**, and the **VIP system** of the inmates and the volunteers' system of **Palakad** keep the jail from collapsing;
- A “**unique jail management**,” originally anchored on mutual support for the inmates and the jail officers, developed with its corresponding belief systems.
- The jail management displays its adherence on formal rules and regulations and on the jail manual on the surface level, but in reality, works in the mechanics of the “Unique Jail Management.”

3. The Penal Institution, is not a deterrence to crime; it is a venue for deterioration of individuals:

- The jail is in a self-contained world where there is a premium given to the experiences of recidivists;
- The jail becomes the venue for the establishment of social network among those who live in the cycle of crime;

The research findings could be summarized in the diagrams comparing the ideal and the real penal systems.

Ideal Penal system



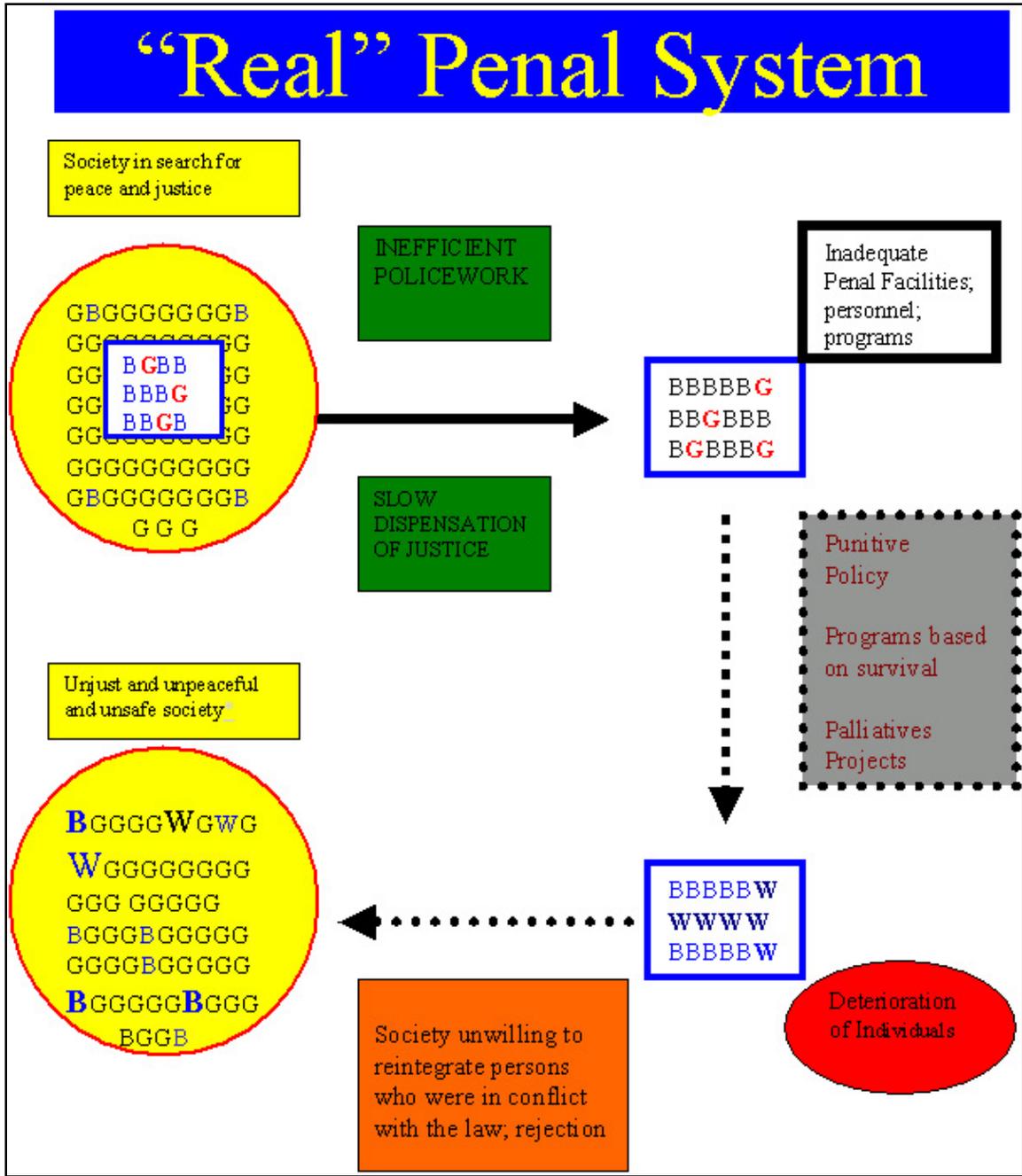
In the Ideal Penal System, the society is basically inhabited by “good,” meaning law abiding and responsible, individuals. (As represented by the letter “G” in the upper circle.) There is a penal code that defines the conduct of the individual towards him/herself and to the other members in order to attain a just and peaceful society. Should there be violations on the penal code or those who are at conflict with the law, (as represented by the “B” for “bad” in the box inside the circle), the violators are immediately sent to the penal institution. The two prerequisites are: 1.) An efficient policework where ideally, all those only truly guilty shall be arrested, and 2.) The swift dispensation of justice, where ideally, the punishments are commensurate to the crimes done and the procedures are speedy and impartial.

Once inside the penal institution, the three important ingredients are: a complete penal facility, adequate and fully equipped personnel, and amply funded programs. This will ensure that the penal institution will have a restorative justice as its guiding policy and philosophy. These policies can then be transformed into a set of reformatory programs like the provisions of classification and merits systems. Ultimately, this will redound to specific rehabilitation projects like education and livelihood.

As such, the individuals undergo a sustained and holistic program for reformation, from the day they enter the jail. There is transformation in the individuals, as they will be made to account for their lives and be responsible for their past actions. There shall also be knowledge and skills gained. The positive social, moral and personal values shall be imparted to make the individuals conscientious in their future actions. They shall be armed with their political, economic and civil rights for them to be empowered and to assert their equitable existence in the society. Also, they shall be equally informed of their duties and obligations in adhering to the rule of law. From the day the individuals leave the confines of the jail, they are reformed. (The “B” is transformed to “G.”)

Eventually, the individuals are taken back to the fold of the society, where their families and communities are willing to give them another chance. They shall ask for forgiveness to the victims of their crimes. Their talents and skills are fully harnessed and the business sector willing to employ them. There is no stigma in their incarceration. They now serve as the model of the community, warning all the other possible violators of the penal code to stay away from the cycle of crime. The Penal Institution becomes a deterrence. There shall be a healing process. And the society will maintain its ideal goal of having a just and peaceful society.

This is the “Ideal Penal System.” The ideal, however, is far the “Real Penal System” as shown by the experience of the Quezon City Jail.



This is the “Real Penal System” that is at work. In this set up, good people also basically inhabit the society. However, the society’s disparities and inequities, where there is poverty, illiteracy and powerlessness in the big bulk of its population, lead its members to violations of the penal code. But still, the society is in search for peace and justice. As such, the violators or those who had been in conflict with the law are sent to the penal institution.

However due to the inherent weakness of the police and judicial institutions of the society, the “Good” people are equally arrested and their rights trampled and “Bad” remain scot free. The

court procedures are slow such that many of the individuals stay in jail longer than the maximum impossible penalty. The gravity of the punishment is more than the magnitude of the crime. Worse is when the cases are not decided on the merits but on the political and other considerations.

Once committed to the penal institution, the three important ingredients are lacking: there is inadequate penal facility, insufficient personnel, and deficient programs. Thus, the jail is in a state of struggle for competing resources. In order to contain the brewing conflict, it imposes a punitive and repressive policy. Any form of discontent are immediately quelled by the use of oppressive disciplinary structures. This is done by legitimizing the “**pangkat**” and “**batas ng kulungan**” systems, which have evolved through the years and have developed its own set of beliefs and values.

As a result, the programs are based on the survival of the inmates and the jail officers. The classification and merits systems have to give way to the **pangkat** and **favoritism** and **padrino systems**. Eventually, the jail activities are carried on a day-to-day basis and the solutions to the problems are palliative. Though there are some projects and activities that are exemplary and inspiring, these are not sustained and come only in a one shot basis.

As such, the individuals undergo a sustained and holistic program of deterioration from the day they enter the jail. They are introduced to the harshness of the real world, and the more they are convinced that they have done nothing wrong. “**Ang kulungan ay di para sa taong makasalanan kundi para sa mga kapos ang kapalaran.**” They shall learn the tricks of the criminal trade from their fellow inmates and the manner to avoid future arrests. The value system is geared towards emulating the actions of the **tayman or recidivists**. They shall be armed with the **gulang ng kulungan** and this will be the basis of their decisions in future actions. The more that they will disregard the law, since they believe that it is power that rules anyway.

For the poor and uneducated who are caught in the penal system however, the effect is more debilitating. They are continually put in the sidelines and made to sustain the iniquitous system. They become the cannon fodder during riots, the **buyoneros** who serve the VIPs and subjected to **takal** in the slightest errors.

While there are success stories of individuals in the jail—those who found spiritual enlightenment and their personal missions in life, these have the exceptions rather than the rule. It is more of an individual rather than an institutional effort.

As such, many individuals leave the confines of the jail a broken spirit. They are harbingers of hope and despair. (The good becomes bad and bad becomes worse)

Unfortunately, these individual are rejected by the society. They have to leave their former dwelling place for fear of retaliation from their complainants. There is no healing process as the victims would rather see them dead. There is stigma by the society for having branded them as criminals. They cannot be accepted by the business community because they have been previously charged and/or convicted of a crime. As such, those who had been hooked in the cycle of crime make use of the skills gained in the jail to commit more heinous crimes. They

have contempt on the judicial institutions and encourage others to openly defy it. They do not fear the length of possible incarceration and the threat of death penalty. What matters is to elude arrest and possible convictions. As such the penal institution is not a deterrent to crime.

And in a week or two, they are back in jail again.

Recommendations:

This research paper echoes the voices of the inmates, the jail officers, volunteers and visitors for the following:

1. New Quezon City Jail with facilities and equipments

Any reformation program at the moment is doom to fail because the facilities systematically negate all the efforts. The New Quezon City Jail must be complete with facilities (See PRA activities among jail officers). The Quezon City Government and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology should work hand in hand in attaining this goal.

The most immediate need is the call for additional buses and vans for the use of transporting the inmates to the court.

2. Provision of basic necessities

The inmates deserve a humane treatment. There should be provisions for clothing, beddings and nutritious food for the inmates.

3. Additional quality personnel

The number of jail personnel should be commensurate with the growing population of the inmates. At the very least, the jail personnel strength should be doubled. (Since year 2000, the inmate population almost doubled yet the jail personnel strength remained the same.)

Also, the jail officers' curriculum should be adhered towards reformation and rehabilitation. Their role as counselors should be given more emphasis.

4. Higher compensation for jail officers

The jail officers' pay scale should at least be made comparable to the police officers, their cousins in the profession. Their work is equally as hazardous and important in the criminal justice system.

5. Empowerment of BJMP Director to give Good Conduct Time Allowance to deserving inmates.

This shall be the basis of a merit system inside the jail. This will complement the Classification System and empower the Disciplinary Board.

6. Review of the BJMP Manual

The Bureau Manual must be attuned to its penal reality. As it is, the Manual is based on an ideal that is non-existent. As such, the BJMP Manual does not serve its purpose of guiding the jail officers in doing their tasks. The application is selective and the rules become arbitrary.

As such, there is a legitimate argument on the grievances of the jail officers who are made to suffer full penalties of negligence of duties as based on the Manual, when in fact, the Manual cannot live by its own standard.

Also, the practice of the immediate sacking of a jail warden every time there are jail disturbances, even if there are no investigations yet conducted, as to whether the warden was culpable of the action, must be reviewed.

7. Come up with a policy on **Pangkat, patakaran, nanunungkulan** and inmate financial schemes

As such, the Jail Manual must deal with the hard penal reality: the existence of the Pangkat, the Patakaran, the Nanunungkulan, and the Inmate Financial Schemes. The Manual must formally incorporate these mechanisms in order to maximize its usefulness and to minimize the damage it can wreck. The Jail Manual should not pretend that this is not happening.

8. Come up with a holistic program for reformation

The research recommends for the adoption of a Therapeutic Community Program for the inmates of the Quezon City Jail. Should the New Quezon City Jail pushes through, the Therapeutic Community Program must be its program component. Unfortunately, however, with the present set up of the jail, this will be impossible to implement.

9. The maximization of the jail volunteers, business community and visitors

This research recommends for a strong partnership between the jail volunteers, business community and the inmate visitors towards an integrated program for reformation. Since the jail resources are limited, it should take the lead in network building. There should be mutual sharing of resources and a common visions and missions. The relationship need not be confrontational.

These recommendations are internal to the jail management. But since the penal system is but one of the pillars of the criminal justice system, the following recommendations are offered by the members of the jail community:

Stake holders	Recommendations
Police	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To check the <i>pangkat</i> system in the precinct 2. To do away with the practice of employing an inmate to harm another inmate 3. To coordinate the inmates' court records with the jail officers

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To share with the jail bureau the inmates' profile 5. To cross-check inmates' cases in the Warrant Section for pending cases before committing the inmate in jail. 6. To check inmates' age before committing in jail
Prosecution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consolidate inmates' cases in one court 2. To develop alternative to prison programs like pre-trial release. 3. To repeal victimless crimes like PD 1602 or anti-gambling 4. To move for the release of inmates on self recognizance accused of petty crimes but have stayed in jail for than six months 5. To lower the bail recommended on petty crimes for first time offenders.
PAO lawyers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have additional PAO lawyers; there should be at least two PAO lawyers assigned in one Court 2. To coordinate with jail paralegal officers and volunteers in the preparation of inmates defense. 3. To have a PAO desk in the jail
Court	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be provided with additional judges 2. To set hearings at least once a week 3. To set promulgation for a maximum of 90 days 4. To appropriate automatic compensation to accused who are acquitted but languished in jail for at least a year.
Parole and probation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conduct regular seminars on the jail 2. To transform itself into a pre-trial release program 3. To come up with a merit-based program, together with the BJMP, and incorporate it with its criteria of awarding parole/or probation to the applicants.
Bureau of Corrections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have a coordination with the BJMP on the issues of the <i>Pangkat</i>. 2. To come up with a mutually enforcing merit system
Commission on Human Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conduct regular human rights seminar in the Jail 2. To deputize jail volunteers as Human Rights Watchdogs in the police precincts 3. To set up a human rights desk in the jail 4. To strongly advocate against the prevailing inhumane conditions of the jail.
QC Local Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To check the food subsidy it gives to the inmates and verify if this truly redounds to the beneficiaries 2. To mobilize its local health and sanitation departments and supervise if the jail meets its basic provisions
Volunteers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To come up with holistic and long term programs that is attuned to the penal realities in coordination with the Bureau. 2. There should be transparency in their finances
Media	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be critical and probing on their articles about jails 2. To desist from propagating the image of jails as haven of gang wars and riots
Business Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To come up with livelihood projects inside the jail that is in line with the reformation efforts of the Bureau. 2. To coordinate with the jail bureau for recommendations on outstanding inmates for employment.
Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have affirmative action programs for released inmates. 2. To have holistic understanding of the plights of persons behind bars

Annex 1

The Participatory Research Tools
 (Source: Robert Chambers, Putting People First, 2001)
 Theoretical Definitions of the PRA

Definition:

This is an intensive, interactive, and expeditious forms of research, which relies on small multidisciplinary teams that employ a range of methods, tools, and techniques specifically selected to enhance understanding of jail conditions by tapping the knowledge of inmates. Its most outstanding characteristics are flexibility, minimal resource requirements, and the central role given to intensive dialogue, varied types of communication, and researcher-community cooperation in order to access community knowledge. Triangulation is a common technique employed in choosing methods, sites, and participants in research, so that a minimum of three perspectives provides a range of variables to be studied.

PRA places a strong emphasis on sharing ownership with participating communities, through the incorporation of community goals and needs into the design, objectives, and uses of the research. With the new questions and insights generated by conducting basic exercises with communities, researchers can move more directly toward understanding problems and facilitating the development of appropriate solutions.

Uses:

The PRA in particular can provide useful tools for conducting various types of participatory research. PRA techniques can be used to gain both a general and a more in-depth understanding of community knowledge. A general understanding of community characteristics can help to guide the development of a sampling strategy for more further research, while more extensive community knowledge can be used to supplement other types of qualitative and quantitative data.

Advantages:

Most of the PRA techniques are designed to be inexpensive and easy for anyone to participate in. They generate a great deal of information in a short amount of time and provide insight into social behaviours and management practices.

Disadvantages:

PRA techniques require a capable and experienced facilitator. Interpreted out of context and taken on their own, the data produced from these techniques can be superficial. They should be used in conjunction with other tools as a means to generate new perspectives and research orientation. Special care must be taken to ensure that these exercises are carried out in a participatory manner, and that community members are involved in adapting tools to suit their own contexts.

One difficulty in using these tools is that they may have the affect of altering the cultural mode of expression. According to Cornwall and Jewkes (1995; 1673), the very act of the 'community' engaging with outsiders necessitates a simplification of their shared experiences into a form and generality which is intelligible to an outsider. Even though they are designed to highlight areas of diversity among participants, these tools continue to mask subtle differences

between individuals within a group, and between the knowledge systems of researcher and participant.

Partial List of tools:

- Community mapping
- Ranking, Rating, Sorting Exercises
- Semi-structured interviews
- Local knowledge forms - folk taxonomies
- Calendars and schedules

Brief Tool Descriptions:

Community mapping

Study of resource management requires knowledge of both the spatial distribution of resources and of how these resources are utilised. These exercises involve the community in mapping with the purpose of generating information about the local environment and social systems, gauging community perceptions of ownership, responsibility, physical or social boundaries. This was used in the PRA among livelihood participants.

Ranking, Rating, and Sorting Exercises

These tools are simple and inexpensive ways to provide insight into individual or group decision-making and to identify the criteria that people use to select certain items or activities. When used with different groups and compared, they can pin-point differences in perception, identify priorities, and monitor changes in preference. In addition, they can translate qualitative information into quantitative form.

Ranking - The process of ranking a certain number of items on the basis of a certain criteria. This is used in determining which among the police modus operandi is most prevalent

Rating - This process, which works best with literate people, involves rating certain statements or ideas on a scale which runs from complete agreement to total disagreement. For example participants may be given a statement about a method of crop management and asked to rate how strongly they agree with the statement.

Sorting - The process of sorting a unit according to its characteristics into clearly defined categories.

Semi-structured interview

Semi-structured interviews are interviews conducted with individuals or groups, based around a particular issue. While an interviewer may have a checklist of information that they want to cover, interview questions are not rigidly structured and may be adapted according to the directions that responses take. In other words, the interaction is based upon an open framework which allow for focused, conversational, two-way communication. This type of interview is

useful because it allows researchers to obtain specific quantitative and qualitative information from a sample of the population, to probe for unknown information, and to get a broad range of insights.

Local knowledge - terminology

The listing of words and phrases that is particular to a community is reflective of the community's shared values and traditions. It is indicative of a unique experience that only the participants could understand. To decode such value systems, the terminology may be asked to be written down, described and evaluated.

Guide questions for the Participatory Research Approach (PRA) activities:

a. Kindly write, draw, and describe, in any way, your conditions at the moment. (for example, *kalagayan ng kaso, kalagayan ng selda, ng pagkain, ng pagtulog, ng medical, ng patakaran, ng mga panunungkulan, etc.*)

b. Kindly rate, qualify, and discuss the conditions that you have inside the jail. (for example: *alin ang pinakamabigat na dahilan kung bakit mabagal ang takbo ng kaso, ano ang epekto ng kulang sa espasyo, ano ang mga ginagawa upang pagkasyahin ang pagkain, ano ang mga epekto ng kulang sa pagtulog, alin sa mga patakaran ang may pinakambigat na parusa, bakit kinakatakutan ang mga nanunungkulan, etc.*)

c. Kindly comment, modify or improve on the answers given by your fellow participants in the research activity? (for example: *totoo ba ang lahat ay nakakaranas ng pambubugbog ng mga pulis sa presinto, alin ang brigada ang mas matindi ang problema sa pagkain o tulugan? etc.*)

Semi-Structured Interview Guide Questions for the Mayores and other Inmate leaders:

Preliminary Questions: (Personal Questions)

- a. How long have you been staying in jail? (*Gaano ka na katagal sa loob?*)
- b. What was the case filed against you? (*Ano ang dala mong asunto?*)
- c. What is your condition right now? (*Ano ang kalagayan mo sa ngayon?*)

Introductory Questions: (Expeditionary Questions)

- a. Did you have any position in the cell or brigade? or gang? (*May katungkulan ka ba sa inyong selda o brigada? o pangkat?*)
- b. What is your position? (*Ano ang iyong katungkulan?*)
- c. How were you placed in the position? (*Paano po kayo naluklok sa panunungkulan?*)
- d. What are your responsibilities in that position? (*Ano ang mga responsibilidad niyo sa katungkulan iyon?*)

Custodial Roles:

- a. How were you able to do your responsibilities? (*Paano niyo naisasakatuparan ang inyong mga katungkulan?*)
- b. Was it easy or difficult to do your tasks? (*Naging madali o mahirap ba ang pagpapatupad ng inyong panunungkulan?*)
- c. What were the difficulties that you encountered? (*Ano ang nagiging pabigat sa inyong mga panunungkulan?*)

Relationship with other pangkat

- d. How is your relationship with other gangs? (*Kumusta naman po ang relasyon niyo sa mga kapitbahay?*)
- e. Are there instances that you had problems with them? (*Nagkakaroon po ba ng mga pagkakataon na may aberya?*)
- f. What were the common reasons of conflict? (*Ano ang mga kadalasang dahilan ng di pagkakaunawaan?*)
- g. What were the results of the conflict? (*Ano naman ang nagiging kinahihinatnan ng mga sigalot?*)
- h. How did you resolve the conflicts? (*Paano niyo po naayos ang mga sigalot?*)
- i. How do you maintain peace and order with other gangs? (*Paano niyo napapanatili ang katahimikan sa mga kapitbahay?*)

Relationship with jail officers:

- j. How is your relationship with the jails officers? (*Paano po ang pakikitungo niyo sa mga empleyado?*)
- k. Do the jail officers recognize your position? (*Kinikilala po ba nga mga empleyado ang inyong panunungkulan?*)
- l. What are the common points of misunderstanding between inmates and jailguards? (*Ano ang kadalasang dahilan ng di-pagkakaunawaan sa pagitan ng mga inmate ate empleyado?*)
- m. How do you resolve the conflict? (*Paano niyo naayos ang mga sigalot na ito?*)

Treatment of NGO's

- n. How do you deal with NGO's? (*Paano kayo nakikitungo sa mga NGO's?*)
- o. What is the support given by the NGO's to your constituents? (*Ano ang mga tulong ng mga NGO's sa inyong nasasakupan?*)
- p. Do you have any problems with the way the NGO's conduct their services? (*May mga aberya po ba sa mga NGO's sa kanilang pabibigay serbisyo?*)

Wrapping up Questions:

- q. What could be done to improve the conditions of the inmates in the Quezon City Jail? *(Ano ang mga hakbang na maaaring gawin upang mapabuti ang mga kalagayan ng mga inmates sa QCJ?)*
- r. What can you tell to jail authorities and government administrators on your present plight. *(Ano ang mga mensahe mo sa mga empleyado at mga opisyaales ng pamahalaan sa inyong kalagayan sa ngayon?)*

Guide Questions for the Jail officers

Preliminary Questions: (Personal Questions)

- a. How long have you been an employee of the BJMP? When were you assigned in QCJ?
- b. What were your reasons for joining the Jail Bureau?

Introductory Questions: (Expeditionary Questions)

- a. What is your present assignment?
- e. What are your responsibilities in your assignment?

Custodial Roles:

- b. How were you able to do your responsibilities?
- c. What were the difficulties that you encountered?

Relationship with the inmates

- d. How is your relationship with the gang members?
- e. How do you view the presence of inmate leadership structure?
- f. Do you approve or disapprove of the way they conduct their authority over their fellow inmates?
- g. Are there instances that you had problems with them?
- h. What were the common reasons of conflict between inmates and the jail officers?
- i. What were the results of the conflict?
- j. How did you resolve the conflicts
- k. How do you maintain peace and order inside the jail?

Relationship with jail officers:

- l. How is your relationship with other jails officers?
- m. What are the common points of misunderstanding among jail officers and other jail officers?
- n. How do you resolve the conflict?

Treatment of NGO's

- o. How do you deal with NGO's?
- p. What is the support given by the NGO's to your constituents?
- q. Do you have any problems with the way the NGO's conduct their services?

Wrapping up Questions:

- r. What could be done to improve the conditions of the inmates in the Quezon City Jail?
What can you tell to jail authorities and government administrators on your present plight?