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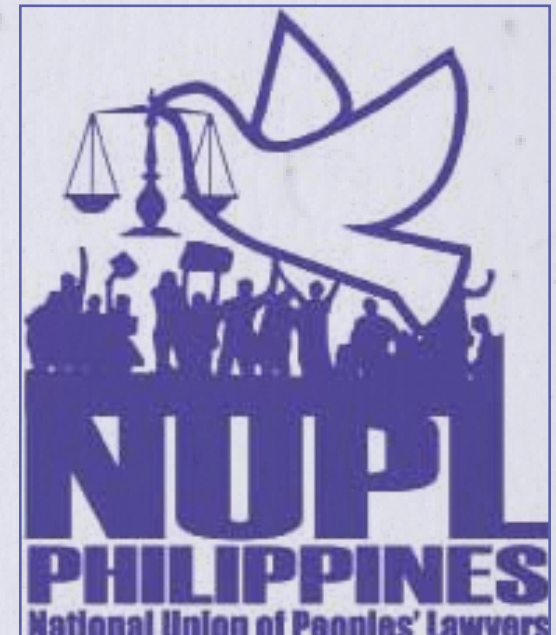
“ By calling yourselves the “people’s lawyer,” you have made a remarkable choice. You decided not to remain in the sidelines. Where human rights are assaulted, you have chosen to sacrifice the comfort of the fence for the dangers of the battlefield. But only those who choose to fight on the battlefield live beyond irrelevance.”

- Chief Justice Puno



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THE NATIONAL UNION OF PEOPLES' LAWYERS (NUPL)

The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers was formally founded on September 15, 2007 as a nationwide voluntary association of human rights lawyers as well as law students, paralegals and legal workers in the Philippines, committed to the defense, protection, and promotion of human rights especially of the poor and the oppressed.

The clientele of the NUPL are the marginalized and oppressed sectors -- the farmers, workers, fisherfolk, urban poor, women, youth, students, children, migrant workers, indigenous peoples, Moro people, minority groups, political activists and human rights defenders.

NUPL was organized to provide mechanisms for collaboration, coordination, assistance and facilitation of legal services in the local and national levels. As a frontline advocacy group, NUPL is directly engaged in litigation and legal consultancy as a venue for advocacy on issues affecting the rights of the people and an arena to serve them even more effectively and efficiently.

The NUPL is oriented towards the active defense, protection and promotion of human rights covering the peoples' civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including the advocacy and assertion of their inherent right to self-determination.

As a principal mission, the NUPL is united and committed to render competent legal services, with the use of one's legal education, skills, training, knowledge and experience, to the marginalized sectors for the upholding and promotion of their rights and freedoms.

It is an affiliate of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) which has consultative status with the United Nations. It also has linkages with various international human rights lawyers organizations.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To render concrete, specific, prompt, and competent legal services to victims of violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the poor and oppressed and to facilitate and coordinate the rendition of such services.

To vigorously, systematically and aggressively prepare, file, prosecute and pursue all kinds of cases, complaints, investigations, lobbying against suspected perpetrators of such violations.

To maximize and rationalize the practical use of existing judicial, quasi-judicial and other legal fora and remedies in the national and international levels including the mechanisms arising out of the peace process for the defense, protection and promotion of human rights.

To campaign, advocate and lobby for the liberties, freedoms and rights of the Filipino people as well as those of other peoples of the world.

To share concrete experiences in handling human rights cases and come up with specific recommendations and mechanisms to help ensure the defense, promotion and protection of human rights and to substantially contribute to the removal of impunity for violations thereof.

To concretize and institutionalize steps and programs for the protection of the security and welfare of lawyers who are under threat and attack by virtue of the exercise of the profession especially those involved in human rights practice as well as on the welfare of the families of those who have been killed or attacked.

To promote human rights lawyering as a viable professional alternative, provide venues to conduct research and for professional and political education, development, cooperation and mutual support for its members.

To link up, establish and maintain professional and solidarity linkages with other national and international individuals, groups or organizations.

PROGRAMS

- Legal Services Program
- Campaigns and Advocacy Program
- Education and Research Program (ERP)
- Protection and Welfare of Lawyers Program
- Organization and Expansion Program
- International Solidarity Program

