



AUG 22 2007

DepED MEMORANDUM  
No. **334** s. 2007

THE VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

To: Regional Directors  
Regional Secretary, ARMM  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public Secondary Schools

1. The Office of the Vice President, in partnership with the Department of Education, Kabayan Noli de Castro Foundation and the Rotary Club of Midtown Quezon City (District 3780), is once again organizing the Vice President Noli de Castro Academic Excellence and Exemplary Leadership Awards this School Year 2007-2008.
2. With the theme, "Edukasyon Sagot sa Hamon ng Kahirapan", the Awards aim to achieve the following objectives:
  - a. Recognize public secondary school students who have shown exemplary performance in academics and leadership;
  - b. Encourage the Filipino youth to excel and to lead the way towards genuine public service; and,
  - c. Give recognition to public secondary school students who, despite challenging circumstances, have achieved success in academics, co-curricular activities or as student leaders through hardwork and perseverance, thereby serving as inspiration to others.
3. The Awards, which consist of two categories, namely; Academic Excellence Award and Exemplary Leadership Award, are open to all presently enrolled Fourth Year public secondary school students nationwide.
4. The Awards Mechanics, Nomination Form and the Profile of the Vice President are contained in Enclosure Nos. 1, 2 and 3 respectively.
5. All Education Supervisors/Coordinators handling the Student Government Program and/or Araling Panlipunan in the regional and division offices shall be the coordinators for the Awards in their respective areas who shall be fully supported and assisted by their respective offices. The School Principal shall designate the Department Head or the Teacher handling the Student Government Program and/or Araling Panlipunan as the coordinator for the school.
6. All Regional Directors, Schools Division/City Superintendents and School Heads are encouraged to give generous support to the Awards. Expenses in this regard shall be charged against local funds.

7. For queries, please contact the Office of the Vice President c/o Atty. Jesse H. T. Andres at telephone number 551-3897, DepED-CSCA c/o Executive Director Joey G. Pelaez at telephone numbers (02) 631-8495 or 636-3603 or the Rotary Club of Midtown Quezon City (District 3780) c/o Arch. Davey de Dios at telephone numbers 426-1253 or 426-1254.

8. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
**RAMON C. BACANI**  
Undersecretary

Encls.: As stated

Reference: DepED Memorandum: No. 341, s. 2006

Allotment: 1--(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

PRIZES or AWARDS  
SECONDARY EDUCATION  
STUDENTS

Reformatted by: Sally Noli de Castro academic awards  
August 16, 2007

**THE VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

**AWARDS MECHANICS**

**I. RATIONALE**

The Vice President Noli de Castro Academic Excellence and Exemplary Leadership Awards were initiated by Honorable Noli “Kabayan” de Castro to recognize public secondary school students who have shown exemplary performance in academics and leadership. It also seeks to encourage the Filipino youth to excel and to lead the way towards genuine public service. Significantly, the awards likewise aim to give recognition to public secondary school students who, despite challenging circumstances, have achieved success in academics, co-curricular activities or as student leaders through hardwork and perseverance, thereby serving as inspiration to others.

**II. CATEGORIES**

The Awards recognize outstanding performance in the following categories:

**A. Academic Excellence**

The Vice President Noli de Castro Academic Excellence Award shall be given to the student who has shown exemplary performance in academics, brought honor and prestige to the school through various academic-related competitions, contests and exposures, and by reason of which has received other awards recognizing his/her academic excellence.

There shall be four (4) winners in this category; one each from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the National Capital Region.

**B. Exemplary Leadership**

The Vice President Noli de Castro Leadership Excellence Award shall be given to the student who has shown active involvement in school organizations as an officer, particularly in the Supreme Student Government and other DepED-recognized clubs or organizations. The student must have exhibited notable performance in implementing programs and projects and in delivering services that benefit not only his/her fellow students and the school but also the immediate community.

There shall be four (4) winners in this category; one each from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the National Capital Region.

In both categories, the student must have shown in his/her own experience how he/she epitomizes the values of hardwork, determination, honesty, integrity and dedication to public service and how these values contributed in achieving academic excellence and exemplary leadership.

### III. QUALIFICATIONS, REQUIREMENTS, SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS

#### A. Qualifications

The nominees must meet the following qualifications:

##### 1. General Qualifications

- a. Must be a graduating high school student currently enrolled in any public secondary school;
- b. Must have at least one (1) year residency in the public school being represented;
- c. Must be a Filipino citizen;
- d. Must be nominated only once in any category consistent with the "one nominee per school per category rule";
- e. Must not have been subjected to school disciplinary action;
- f. Must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude; and,
- g. Must have good moral standing.

##### 2. Specific Qualifications

###### Academic Excellence

- a. Consistent honor student from First Year to Fourth Year (Up to Second Grading Period only);
- b. Must not have grades lower than 80% in any subject;
- c. Must have a general average of not lower than 85% considering all major subjects including MAKABAYAN; and,
- d. Must be active in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

###### Exemplary Leadership

- a. Must be an officer of a club or organization duly recognized by the school or the Department of Education or other socio-civic organizations;
- b. Must have implemented significant programs and projects that benefited his/her fellow students, the school and the immediate community; and,

- c. Must have no failing grades and with an average of at least 80% considering all major subjects including MAKABAYAN.

## B. Requirements

The nominees must submit the following requirements:

1. Duly accomplished and signed Nomination Form;
2. Recent 2x2 colored photo;
3. Certification of Good Moral Standing from the School Principal;
4. Certification of Enrolment from the School Principal;
5. Certified True Copy of Form 137/Transcript of Grades from First Year to Fourth Year (Up to Second Grading Period Only);
6. Nomination Letter from the Section Adviser for the School Level Search, from the School Principal for the Division Level Search, from the Schools Division Superintendent for the National Level Search. (When submitting for the National Search, all nomination letters of the Section Adviser, School Principal and the Schools Division Superintendent must be submitted.); and,
7. Photocopy of pertinent certificates and awards received, including pictures if applicable.

## C. Screening and Selection Process

The screening and selection process shall follow the following steps:

1. School Level Search
  - a. All public secondary schools shall have the free hand to organize their respective School Level Search Committee to determine their nominee for each of the category for the Division Level Search.
  - b. The School Level Search Committee shall be composed of not more than five (5) members as follows:

Chair	:	School Principal/Head
Vice Chair	:	Dep't Head/Teacher, Araling Panlipunan
Members	:	Dep't Head/Teacher, Values
		Dep't Head/Teacher, Any Subject
		President/Officer, PTCA
  - c. The School Level Search Committee shall certify as to the organization of a School Level Search Committee and as to the selection of the nominee for each of the category. Such certification shall be contained in the nomination form itself.

- d. The winner in each category shall represent the school in the Division Level Search.
- e. The nomination form, the requirements submitted and all documents which formed part of the selection process in the School Level Search shall all be forwarded to the DepED Division Office addressed to the Schools Division Superintendent c/o the Araling Panlipunan Supervisor/Coordinator or the Student Government Program Division Coordinator.

2. Division Level Search

- a. Each Division shall organize its own Division Level Search Committee to determine their own nominee for each of the category in the National Level Search composed of not more than five (5) members as follows:

Chair	:	Schools Division Superintendent
Vice Chair	:	Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Members	:	Araling Panlipunan Supervisor/Coordinator
		Values Supervisor/Coordinator
		Education Supervisor of Any Subject Area

- b. The Division Level Search Committee shall certify as to the organization of a Division Level Search Committee and as to the selection of the nominee for each of the category. Such certification shall be contained in the nomination form itself.
- c. To give equal opportunity for and achieve representation of all the cities and provinces of the country, the winner in each category shall represent the Division in the National Level Search.
- d. The nomination form, the requirements submitted and all documents which formed part of the selection process in the Division Level Search shall all be forwarded to Atty. Jesse H. T. Andres, Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice President, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philippine National Bank Financial Center Building, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

3. National Level Search

- a. The National Level Selection Committee shall be chaired by Atty. Jesse H. T. Andres, Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice President. It will include representative/s from the Office of the Vice President (OVP), Department of Education (DepED) Kabayan Noli de Castro Foundation and Rotary Club of Midtown Quezon City (District 3780).

- b. Out of the nominations from the DepED Division Offices, the National Level Selection Committee shall select forty (40) finalists distributed as follows:

Area	Academic	Leadership
Luzon Area	5	5
Visayas Area	5	5
Mindanao Area	5	5
NCR Area	5	5

- c. The forty (40) finalists shall be officially notified by the Office of the Vice President and invited to a workshop per area where they shall be subjected to a personal interview session with the National Level Selection Committee and an essay-writing as part of the final screening and selection process.
- d. From the forty (40) finalists, the National Level Selection Committee shall select eight (8) winners, one from each category and area.

#### IV. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

The selection of the winners shall be based on the following criteria for judging:

##### A. Academic Excellence Award

1.	Academic Performance (First to Third Year up to the Second Grading Period of the Fourth Year)	-	30%
2.	Awards/Citations Received for Academic Achievements	-	20%
3.	Intellectual and Communication Skills	-	20%
4.	Involvement in Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities	-	10%
5.	Special circumstances which render the student's achievement more challenging (i.e. the Student should embody the values of Hardwork, Determination, Honesty, Integrity, and Dedication to Public Service)	-	20%
			100%

B. Leadership Excellence Award			
1.	Leadership Performance	-	30%
2.	Involvement in Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities	-	20%
3.	Personal Qualities, Character and Communication Skills	-	20%
4.	Academic Performance (First to Third Year up to the Second Grading Period of the Fourth Year)	-	10%
5.	Special circumstances which render the student's achievement more challenging (i.e. the Student should embody the values of Hardwork, Determination, Honesty, Integrity, and Dedication to Public Service)	-	20%
			100%

## V. TIMETABLE

### 2007

August	-	Issuance of DepED Memorandum
August-October	-	Dissemination of DepED Memorandum
	-	Preparation of the Nomination Form and Other Documents
October 19	-	Deadline of Submission of Nomination in the School Level
October 22-26	-	School Level Search
November 9	-	Deadline of Submission of Winners in the School Level Search to the Division Level Search <b>(All documents and papers must be received by the Division Office on or before this date.)</b>
November 12-16	-	Division Level Search
November 29	-	Deadline of Submission of Winners in the Division Level Search to National Level Search <b>(All documents and papers must be received by the Office of the Vice President on or before this date.)</b>
December 1	-	National Level Search Starts



## **2008**

- January 4 - National Level Search Ends
- January 7-11 - Notification of 40 Finalists
- January 25-February 9 - Final Judging, Interview and Essay-Writing Per Area
- February 22 - Notification of Awardees
- March 7 - Awarding Ceremony

## **VI. PRIZES**

All the awardees shall receive the Vice Presidential Medal and a PhP25,000.00 cash award.

## **VII. DISCLAIMER**

- A. The Office of the Vice President (OVP) and the Kabayan Noli de Castro Foundation, Inc. reserve the right to use the awardees' names, addresses, nomination forms, photographs and illustrations in published material and advertising connected with the awards at no cost beyond the award given.
- B. By affixing one's signature on the official nomination form, the nominees authorize Kabayan Noli de Castro Foundation and the Rotary Club of Midtown Quezon City (District 3780) to copy, reproduce or publish their nomination form and related materials and any and all information obtained in the process of screening and evaluation for whatever legal purpose it may serve.
- C. Submitted material shall not be returned to the nominees.
- D. The organizers shall not be held liable for any inaccuracy, error or omission contained in any copy, reproduction or publication.
- E. The organizers' proceedings and deliberations during the screening and selection are confidential and shall not be disclosed.
- F. The organizers' decision is final and not subject to appeal or reconsideration.



**THE VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**



**NOMINATION FORM**

(Pls. choose only one)

**ACADEMIC AWARD**  
 **LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Print legibly. Mark appropriate boxes and use separate sheet if needed.

Application No. \_\_\_\_\_

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

SURNAME		_____	
FIRST NAME		_____	
MIDDLE NAME		_____	
DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy)	_____	COMPLETE ADDRESS	_____
PLACE OF BIRTH	_____		_____
SEX	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	TELEPHONE NO.	ZIP CODE _____
CITIZENSHIP	_____		CELL. NO. _____

**II. FAMILY BACKGROUND**

FATHER'S SURNAME	_____	OCCUPATION	_____
FIRST NAME	_____	POSITION	_____
MIDDLE NAME	_____	EMPLOYER'S NAME	_____
MOTHER'S SURNAME	_____	OCCUPATION	_____
FIRST NAME	_____	POSITION	_____
MIDDLE NAME	_____	EMPLOYER'S NAME	_____
MONTHLY GROSS FAMILY INCOME	_____		

**III. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

LEVEL	NAME OF SCHOOL	INCLUSIVE DATES OF ATTENDANCE
SECONDARY	_____	_____
ELEMENTARY	_____	_____

ACADEMIC HONORS/ AWARDS RECEIVED AT SECONDARY LEVEL	NON-ACADEMIC HONORS/ AWARDS RECEIVED AT SECONDARY LEVEL
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

ORGANIZATION NAME	POSITION HELD	PROJECTS INVOLVED IN/ NATURE OF INVOLVEMENT	DATE
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## V. TRAINING PROGRAMS ATTENDED

TITLE OF SEMINAR/ CONFERENCE	INCLUSIVE DATES	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

## VI. OTHER INFORMATION

A.) *SPECIAL SKILLS* \_\_\_\_\_

B.) *FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINEES ONLY*

*Do you have any grade in any subject lower than 80%?*

- YES  
 NO

*Is your average in all major subjects including MAKABAYAN not lower than 85%?*

- YES  
 NO

C.) *FOR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINEES ONLY*

*Do you have any failing grades?*

- YES  
 NO

*Is your average in all major subjects including MAKABAYAN not lower than 80%?*

- YES  
 NO

D.) *HAVE YOU EVER BEEN GRANTED A SCHOLARSHIP BY ANY ENTITY?*

- YES  
 NO

IF YES, PLEASE GIVE DETAILS \_\_\_\_\_

E.) *DO YOU HAVE AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR RESIDENCY IN YOUR PRESENT SCHOOL?*

- YES  
 NO

F.) *HAVE YOU BEEN SUBJECTED TO ANY SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY ACTION?*

- YES  
 NO

IF YES, GIVE DETAILS \_\_\_\_\_

G.) *HAVE YOU BEEN TRIED/ CONVICTED OF ANY VIOLATION OF ANY LAW/ DECREE/ ORDINANCE/ REGULATION BY ANY COURT/ TRIBUNAL?*

- YES  
 NO

IF YES, GIVE DETAILS \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. ESSAY ON ACADEMIC OR LEADERSHIP PERFORMANCE** (Use separate sheet )

A.) FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINEES ONLY

*Please explain the highlights of your academic achievements as well as your significant participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.*

B.) FOR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINEES ONLY

*Please explain the highlights of your achievements as an exemplary student leader and your significant involvement in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.*

**VIII. ESSAY ON THE STUDENT'S SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES** (Use separate sheet)

*Please explain the special circumstances which render your achievement more challenging. Please cite instances that show you embody the values of hardwork, determination, honesty, integrity and dedication to public service and how these values contributed in achieving academic excellence and/or exemplary leadership.*

**ATTESTATION**

I attest to the truth of all the foregoing facts and the authenticity of the documents attached to this form. I authorize the organizers to copy, reproduce or publish my nomination form and related materials and any and all information obtained in the process of screening and evaluation for whatever legal purposes it may serve without need for any compensation. I understand that if any of the above given information are proved to be false, I will automatically be disqualified from this contest.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature over Printed Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature over Printed Name of Parent/ Guardian

ID picture taken within the  
last 6 months  
2 x 2  
(Colored)  
Computer generated  
or photocopy of picture  
is not acceptable

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**Name of Nominee**

**LETTER OF NOMINATION**

**I hereby nominate the above-mentioned student for the Vice President Noli De Castro Academic Excellence and Exemplary Leadership Awards for the reasons stated in the attached sheet.**

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**Section Adviser**

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**Date**

**LETTER OF NOMINATION AND CERTIFICATION**

**I hereby nominate the above-mentioned student for the Vice President Noli De Castro Academic Excellence and Exemplary Leadership Awards for the reasons stated in the attached sheet.**

**I further certify that our school organized a School Level Search Committee and that the above-named student was selected as our Nominee for the Division Level Search.**

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**Chairman, School Level Search Committee**

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**Date**

**LETTER OF NOMINATION AND CERTIFICATION**

**I hereby nominate the above-mentioned student for the Vice President Noli De Castro Academic Excellence and Exemplary Leadership Awards for the reasons stated in the attached sheet.**

**I further certify that our division organized a Division Level Search Committee and that the above-named student was selected as our Nominee for the National Level Search.**

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**Chairman, Division Level Search Committee**

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**Date**

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## **VICE PRESIDENT NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO**

**NOLI DE CASTRO'S ASCENDANCY TO THE SECOND HIGHEST POST IN THE REPUBLIC** COULD RIGHTLY BE CALLED, AS ONE NEWS REPORT PUTS IT, **"THE PINOY DREAM."** HE TRANSCENDED HIS FAMILY'S POVERTY AND NOW HOLDS THE MANDATE OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE.

MORE POPULARLY KNOWN AS **"KABAYAN (COMPATRIOT) NOLI"**, THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS BORN ON **JULY 6, 1949 IN POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO**. AT THE AGE OF TEN (10), HE EXPERIENCED A GREAT LOSS WITH THE PASSING OF HIS FATHER. TO EASE HIS MOTHER'S BURDEN IN RAISING HIM AND HIS FIVE SIBLINGS, KABAYAN LEARNED EARLY ON TO EARN A LIVING BY **RAISING PIGS AND SERVING AS AN ALTAR BOY** IN THE LOCAL PARISH CHURCH. ALL HIS STRUGGLES STARTED TO PAY OFF WHEN HE EVENTUALLY GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST IN MANILA IN 1971, WITH A **BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN COMMERCE, MAJORING IN BANKING AND FINANCE**.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BROADCAST JOURNALIST IN THE ANNALS OF LOCAL MEDIA STARTED HIS CAREER IN **1976** AS A **FIELD REPORTER FOR MR. JOHNNY DE LEON**, A POPULAR RADIO ANNOUNCER OF RADIO STATION DWWW. HE BECAME A RADIO ANNOUNCER FOR THE SAME STATION IN 1982 UNTIL 1986. WHEN TELEVISION BROADCASTER ABS-CBN RESUMED OPERATIONS FOLLOWING THE 1986 EDSA REVOLUTION, THE **FILIPINO PUBLIC FOUND KABAYAN TO BE A CREDIBLE AND MARKETABLE TELEVISION PERSONALITY AS HOST OF THE MORNING SHOW, "GOOD MORNING, PHILIPPINES"**. LATER, HE HOSTED SEVERAL OTHER SUCCESSFUL SHOWS, SUCH AS "MAGANDANG UMAGA" (GOOD MORNING), "OVERSEAS UNLIMITED", AND THE LONGEST RUNNING MAGAZINE PROGRAM, **"MAGANDANG GABI...BAYAN!" (GOOD EVENING... NATION!)**. IN 1987, HE STARTED AS AN **EXECUTIVE ANCHOR OF "TV PATROL"**, A PRIMETIME NEWS PROGRAM THAT KABAYAN STEERED TO UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS AS OVERALL HEAD OF PRODUCTION.

IN RADIO, HE WAS THE HOST OF THE POPULAR DAILY MORNING PROGRAM "KABAYAN" ON DZMM. HIS SUCCESS IN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING, AS WELL AS PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT DID NOT COME UNNOTICED. IN 1999, KABAYAN WAS **PROMOTED VICE PRESIDENT OF ABS-CBN DZMM**. THE RADIO STATION ACHIEVED TOP RATINGS UNDER HIS WATCH.

AS A HOST, NOLI DE CASTRO WAS AN **EFFECTIVE LINK BETWEEN POOR FILIPINOS AND THE GOVERNMENT**. KABAYAN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING HOME NEEDY OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, ASSISTING INDIGENT PATIENTS, HELPING LOCATE MISSING PERSONS AND REUNITING THEM WITH THEIR FAMILIES. ON "MAGANDANG GABI... BAYAN" AND "TV PATROL", HE EXPOSED NUMEROUS SCAMS, SCANDALS AND INCIDENTS OF CORRUPTION. HE WAS ALSO AN ADVOCATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND OTHER SOCIAL CONCERNS. THROUGH CONSISTENT MEDIA FOCUS AND CONSEQUENT PUBLIC AWARENESS, HE MADE THOSE RESPONSIBLE OR INVOLVED ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

**KABAYAN WAS A RECIPIENT OF THE CATHOLIC MASS MEDIA AWARD, AS WELL AS THE 7TH AND 9TH KBP GOLDEN DOVE AWARDS**. HE ALSO RECEIVED AWARDS AND CITATIONS FROM OTHER MEDIA GROUPS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS: THE DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD, CRUSADE AGAINST VIOLENCE, THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA.

DESPITE BEING AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE, **NOLI DE CASTRO EMERGED NUMBER ONE IN THE 2001 SENATORIAL ELECTIONS WITH A RECORD OF MORE THAN 16.2 MILLION VOTES.** IN THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THREE IMPORTANT COMMITTEES: TOURISM; SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT; AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES. HE WAS THE PRINCIPAL AUTHOR AND SPONSOR OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, OR THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT; REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9285 OR THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACT; REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9288 OR THE NEWBORN SCREENING ACT; AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9271 OR THE QUARANTINE ACT. IN HIS THREE YEARS AS SENATOR, KABAYAN FILED MORE THAN 140 BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE CAUSES OF THE MASS EVACUATION OF FILIPINO RESIDENTS IN SABAH, AND 25 EDUCATION BILLS THAT SOUGHT TO UPLIFT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION, GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING STUDENTS AND UPGRADE THE SALARIES OF SCHOOL TEACHERS.

**ON DECEMBER 29, 2003, THE POPULAR SENATOR ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION AS THE COALITION RUNNING-MATE OF PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-AROYO FOR THE 2004 NATIONAL ELECTION.** EVEN THOUGH RESULTS FROM SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY REPUTABLE POLLING FIRMS SHOWED THAT HE WAS ALWAYS WELL AHEAD OF HIS RIVAL CONTENDERS DURING THE RECENT CAMPAIGN, **KABAYAN STRESSED THAT "EVEN AS I CONSISTENTLY TOP THE SURVEYS, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE ELECTION FOR VICE PRESIDENT IS ALREADY OVER.** I STILL CONTINUE TO REACH OUT TO THE PEOPLE AND PRESENT TO THEM MY PROGRAMS SO THEY MAY BE ENLIGHTENED ABOUT MY PLANS SHOULD I BE ELECTED." WHEN ASKED WHY HE DID NOT RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY WHEN THE SURVEYS ALSO SHOWED (AND PRESIDENT ARROYO HERSELF PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED) THAT HE MAY WELL HAVE WON HAD HE CHOSEN TO STAND FOR THAT POST, DE CASTRO ANSWERED THAT HE WAS NOT YET READY FOR THE HIGHEST OFFICE. **THIS HUMILITY IS A MARK OF THE BOY FROM POLA – SOMETHING WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE PASSION AND COMMITMENT OF THE MEDIA PROFESSIONAL AND SENATOR, THE FILIPINO PEOPLE CAN BENEFIT FROM THEIR NEW VICE PRESIDENT, WHO IS HAPPILY MARRIED TO HIS "BEST FRIEND" ARLENE SINSUAT AND BLESSED WITH THREE CHILDREN.**