

September 9, 2010

To: The Members of the CFC International Council

Dear Brothers,

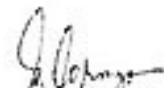
I have received on September 1st a hand delivered copy of your circular dated August 31<sup>st</sup> entitled "Preserving and Protecting Unity in the Body".

To be honest, I am at a loss on how to respond to it properly because the communication appears to be a charge sheet and notice of expulsion for me and seven other brethren, yet it was addressed to all area leaders and released by the CFC Ugnayan Center to all concerned via the internet. Furthermore, it does not specify which of those offenses mentioned I am supposedly guilty of or if all eight of us are uniformly guilty of all those offenses.

My bewilderment is borne out by the fact that it was the first time that I was made aware of, much less charged, of misdeeds against the community, by no less than the seven members of the International Council themselves, through a memorandum of general circulation at that. My wife and I attend our upper household meetings religiously every other week but our attention have never been called nor were even given any hint that we were committing any of these offenses. It's just like being charged, judged and threatened with expulsion, all at once, by the highest leaders of our community, on first notice. So much for our teachings on brotherly correction and the Christian way of resolving conflicts!

At any rate, since I have already been put in this situation and given only 10 days to answer the accusations made against me, let me make the following statements truthfully and unequivocally:

1. I am not a member, supporter, recruiter nor advocate of "CFC-GK". I do not know personally anybody, nor have any communication whatsoever with "separate CFC-GK groups" in Cagayan de Oro or Negros Occidental.
2. I am not a member of the GK Ethics Committee, nor have I attended any of their meetings, or teachings, if any. They have not conducted any meeting, symposium or teaching in any of the 31 GK villages or GK gatherings in our sector. I do consider many members of this committee as my friends and brothers.
3. I am the GK Head of Paranaque and Muntinlupa and part of my responsibility is to oversee the implementation of the different GK programs in our sector. This includes meeting the PD's, caretakers and KB leaders and members of the GK villages, either in separate groups or together in assemblies. Only matters concerning GK are discussed during these meetings.
4. I believe that preserving and protecting unity in CFC does not mean being blind and mute to situations that are obviously wrong, immoral or illegal, as long as one's objection are done properly and in accordance with our culture and teachings. Recent events have led me to exercise these basic rights, to wit:

  
J. Lopez  
KAWAPA, CAGAYAN DE ORO 9-9-10

4.1 I manifested my opposition to the classification made by the SGT on the GK villages in our sector because it was done unilaterally and arbitrarily. I have done this following the CFC culture by writing directly to the SGT (copy attached) and when I was not given a reply, sought the help of my household head, who arranged two meetings between me, two members of the SGT who are in our household, our household head and our sector head. This issue has remained unresolved though. Our sector leadership has maintained their fifty-fifty classification of our GK villages despite their failure to convince the local government of Paranaque and any of our non-CFC partners to convert the existing GK villages into ANCOP villages. One of the explanations given is that, the classification of the GK villages is akin to a divorce settlement, where the un-couple have to split their conjugal property. Not only is the analogy misplaced, the premise that the GK villages are the "conjugal property" of CFC and GKCDFI is terribly wrong.

My stand actually follows the guidelines set by the IC that, ultimately, it is the decision of the partners that should prevail in the classification of the GK villages. This position is also not new because I have already told some members of the IC sometime last year, in a meeting with then SGT of South B, prior to a dialogue with the leaders of our sector, that based on the IC's guidelines only three of the 31 GK villages in our sector can be classified as CFC managed. I did not receive any censure nor hear any adverse comment then from the IC members present.

4.2 I protested and continue to ask for the return of P1.74 million of GK funds surreptitiously transferred by the sector from the GKCDFI bank account to the CFC account in March this year, claiming that P0.46 million of these is the CFC sector's "trustee fee" and the rest, the sector is holding for "safekeeping". Matters have gotten worse because since July, the sector office has stopped paying the allowances of our GK fulltime workers whose pay are supposed to be drawn from the fund they are keeping, yet they continue to use the same fund to pay for the allowances of fulltime workers of ANCOP. To me this is clearly morally wrong, even illegal. Sadly, this continues to be perpetrated to this day.

I have done this protest respectfully and thru proper channels.

5. My involvement in GK is a personal decision. Here I found my calling and concrete expression of my faith, thanks to the earlier inspiration and encouragement of past CFC leaders.

I love our community and I am willing to help in ANCOP. I personally told our sector coordinator this but also told our leaders that I cannot take a leadership role there because of my lifetime commitment in GK. Besides, I have been told that a volunteer in GK cannot take a leadership position in CFC. I have accepted this as a small price to pay in the pursuit of my calling.

If my elders deem that my involvement in GK is incompatible with my continuing membership in CFC, then the loss of my beloved community is a consequence I will have to learn to accept too.

I am writing this letter without any rancor towards any person in our community. I cannot fully comprehend many of the things happening to us but I have learned to leave all these to God.

I would like to respectfully request that the IC cause the distribution of this letter to all the leaders given a copy of their circular. Should this not be done, I will presume that I have to do the sending of copies myself. I have to give an answer to the many brothers and sisters in our community who are asking me "What happened?"

Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely yours,



Francisco G. Balagtas