

# About the Authors

**SENATOR SONNY ANGARA** is the Senate's leading voice for tax reform to raise the take-home pay of ordinary workers and to make our country a more attractive investment destination. He is now the chairman of the Senate committees on local government, and ways and means. He was the representative of Aurora Province for nine years before he was elected senator in 2013. Sen. Sonny values education as a tool to fight poverty and ensure social mobility. He has pushed for laws that ensure greater access to education and scholarships for poor and deserving students. He has also authored several laws to ensure better jobs and working conditions for Filipinos. He took up his elementary and high school studies at Xavier School, and finished his undergraduate degree in International Relations at the London School of Economics. He went on to study law at the University of the Philippines College of Law, and earned his Master of Laws degree from the Harvard Law School. Aside from being a legislator, he is a lawyer, a regular newspaper columnist, and has been a professor of Law and a member of the UP Board of Regents. He is happily married to wife Tootsy and they have three children.

**AILEEN S.P. BAVIERA** is a Professor at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines. She also has a visiting professor appointment with the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. Her specializations include contemporary China, Southeast Asia-China relations, and Asia Pacific security, with secondary interests in regional integration and Asian civil society. She is editor-in-chief of *Asian Politics & Policy* (Wiley-Blackwell), and sits on the advisory board of *Contemporary Southeast Asia* and the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*. She is also founding president of Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit established to support projects and programs for international dialogue, cooperation, and cultural understanding. Prior to joining academe, she was executive director of the nonprofit Philippines-China Development Resource Center, and had served as head of the Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies of the Philippine Foreign Service Institute.

**EMILY CHRISTI A. CABEGIN** obtained her PhD Economics at the University of the Philippines and was awarded a Robert Solow post-doctoral fellowship by the Centre Cournot pour la Recherche en Economie. She was a short-term

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visiting researcher at the Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn Germany and at the Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard University. Her labor research works are in the areas of international labor migration, disadvantaged employment, labor policy, youth employment and wages. She is Associate Professor at the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of the Philippines.

**CLARISSA C. DAVID** teaches communication research methods and theory in the UP College of Mass Communication. She conducts research in public opinion, political communication, public interventions, and communicating policy. In addition to academic research she conducts policy-oriented research and communication strategy consulting in the areas of public education, health, and governance in the Philippines.

**LORAINE GALLEVO** possesses more than 10 years of experience as a finance professional in the fields of tax and accounting. She has gained extensive tax experience as a former auditor and accountant for multinational companies in the Philippines. Loraine has obtained professional certifications as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). Ms. Gallevo earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Accountancy from the University of the Philippines in 2006. She is currently pursuing Masters in International Studies focusing on public fiscal policy in the same university.

**XYLEE JAVIER** completed her degree in BS Economics and Master in Development Economics from the University of the Philippines School of Economics in 2002 and 2008, respectively. She is currently the Team Manager of the Data Management Unit of the UPecon-Health Policy Development Program where she is involved in the providing technical assistance to the Department of Health and PhilHealth in select activities including policy assessment, design, monitoring and assessment of implementation research, data management and analysis and operations monitoring of FP/MNCHN and TB indicators, and monitoring of Universal Health Care implementation. Her other research interests include Income Taxation Analysis, and Poverty. Together with Commissioner Quimbo, she has worked on several studies on potential tax reform packages on personal income tax structures. The two authors are also part of the team that assisted in the analysis leading to the passage of the measure increasing the tax exemption cap for bonuses of salary and wage earners, now Republic Act 10653.

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**STELLA A. QUIMBO** is a member of the Philippine Competition Commission. She is currently on leave as Professor at the UP School of Economics where she served as Department Chair from 2012 to 2015. From 2011 to 2013, she was a Prince Claus Professorial Chair Holder at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Commissioner Quimbo has extensive research in the field of Health Economics, Industrial Organization, Microeconomics, Education, Poverty, and Public Policy and Regulation. This includes her authorship of numerous scientific publications. In 2009, NAST conferred on her the Outstanding Youth Scientist Award. In 2010, she was awarded as one of The Outstanding Women in Nation's Service. In 2015, she was a recipient of the UP President Edgardo J. Angara Fellowship and UP Diliman Centennial Faculty Grant. In 2016, she was a Freedom Flame Awardee of a German foundation for liberal politics, Friedrich Neumann Foundation for Freedom Philippine Office. She obtained her BS in Economics (summa cum laude), MA in Economics and PhD in Economics from the University of the Philippines in 1991, 1993 and 2000, respectively. She spent a year at Brown University as a post-doctoral fellow in 2002 at the Population Studies and Training Center.

**ROMERO F.S. QUIMBO** served as Pag-IBIG Fund President and CEO in 2002 and as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. For six straight years from 2003 to 2008, Pag-IBIG became the most profitable tax-paying government corporation in the country. In 2006, in recognition of his leadership of Pag-IBIG, he was awarded of The Outstanding Young Men for Public Service. In 2010, he ran and won as representative of the Second District of Marikina City. Despite being a neophyte, he was elected as Deputy Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, an Ex Officio Member of All House Committees and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Justice. He was reelected in the 2013 and 2016 elections. When the 16th Congress started, he was elected as Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. As the 17th Congress started, he was elected as Deputy Speaker, the second highest post in the House of Representatives. Known as a Tax Reform Champion in the Lower House, Deputy Speaker Quimbo is committed to pursue his advocacy in enacting laws, which will provide more equitable and responsive tax policies. Deputy Speaker Quimbo earned his BA History and Bachelor of Laws degrees from the University of the Philippines in 1991 and 1996, respectively.

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**MEG REGAÑON** is a recent graduate from the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE), graduating summa cum laude with a degree in BS Economics last 2015. She is a Jose Encarnacion, Jr. Awardee for Excellence in Economics for obtaining the highest Economics Weighted Average out of the graduating class, and a Gerardo P. Sicat Awardee for having one of the best undergraduate thesis. She presently works at the Philippine Competition Commission as the Senior Technical Assistant to the Office of Commissioner Stella Luz Quimbo. Before joining the Commission, she was the Ways and Means Legislative Researcher at the Office of Hon. Romero “Miro” Quimbo, Chairperson of the House Committee on Ways and Means during the 16th Congress. Even as an undergraduate student, Meg has enjoyed the application of economic principles and tools to analyze real-world scenarios and advocating for public policies that are sound and grounded on evidence. She is an alumna of UP Economics Towards Consciousness, an academic-political organization based in UPSE. Her current research interests include Industrial Organization, Labor and Behavioral Economics. She hopes to obtain a Masters and PhD in Economics in the near future.

**CAESAR A. SALOMA** is a professor at the National Institute of Physics, College of Science, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. He obtained his PhD degree from UP in 1989. His research interests are in signal processing, optical microscopy, photonics, complex adaptive systems, and the Philippine scientific enterprise system. Saloma received the 2004 Galileo Galilei Award from the International Commission for Optics for his significant contributions in optics that were achieved under unfavorable socio-economic conditions. He was also recognized with the ASEAN Outstanding Scientist and Technologist Award by the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology in 2008. Saloma was elected to the National Academy of Science and Technology in 2005. He became an Inaugural Fellow of the Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas in 2008, and a Senior Member of the Optical Society of America in 2010. Saloma first joined UP as a physics instructor in 1981 and to date, has mentored a total of twenty-two PhD graduates. He served as Director of the National Institute of Physics (2000-2006), Dean of the College of Science (2006 – 2011) and Chancellor of UP Diliman (2011-2014). He received the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award in 2007 and the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award in 2008.

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**LUCIA P. TANGI** is a faculty at the Department of Journalism, College of Mass Communication in UP Diliman. She served as chair of the Department of Journalism from July 2012 to August 2015. In March 2013, she introduced the Philippine Journalism Research Conference which has become the benchmark for journalism research for undergraduate students. She also worked to make the department as the only CHED Center of Excellence in Journalism for 2013 and 2016. Before joining UP as a full-time faculty in 2007, Prof. Tangi worked as a full-time journalist in Manila, Hong Kong and Japan. She received four major awards in journalism while working as a reporter for the Hong Kong Standard from 1994 to 1999. Among the awards she received from the Hongkong Newspaper Society were second runner-up in Best Business Story (1995) for her article on cross-border fraud between China and HongKong and first runner-up Best General News Category (1996) for a news article on medical mishap which she co-authored with other reporters. In 1998, she received the Bronze Award from the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation for her story on a person living with AIDS. She also received in 1998 the Human Rights Award for her bodies of work on human rights situation in Hong Kong.