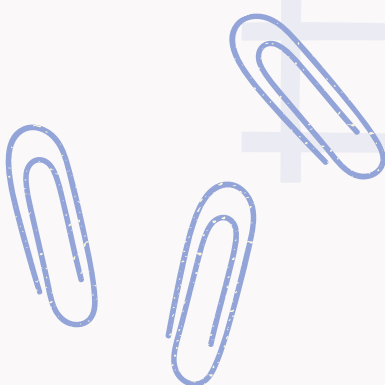
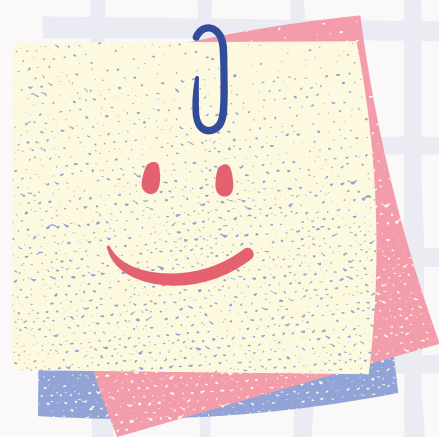




INCITEGov
International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance

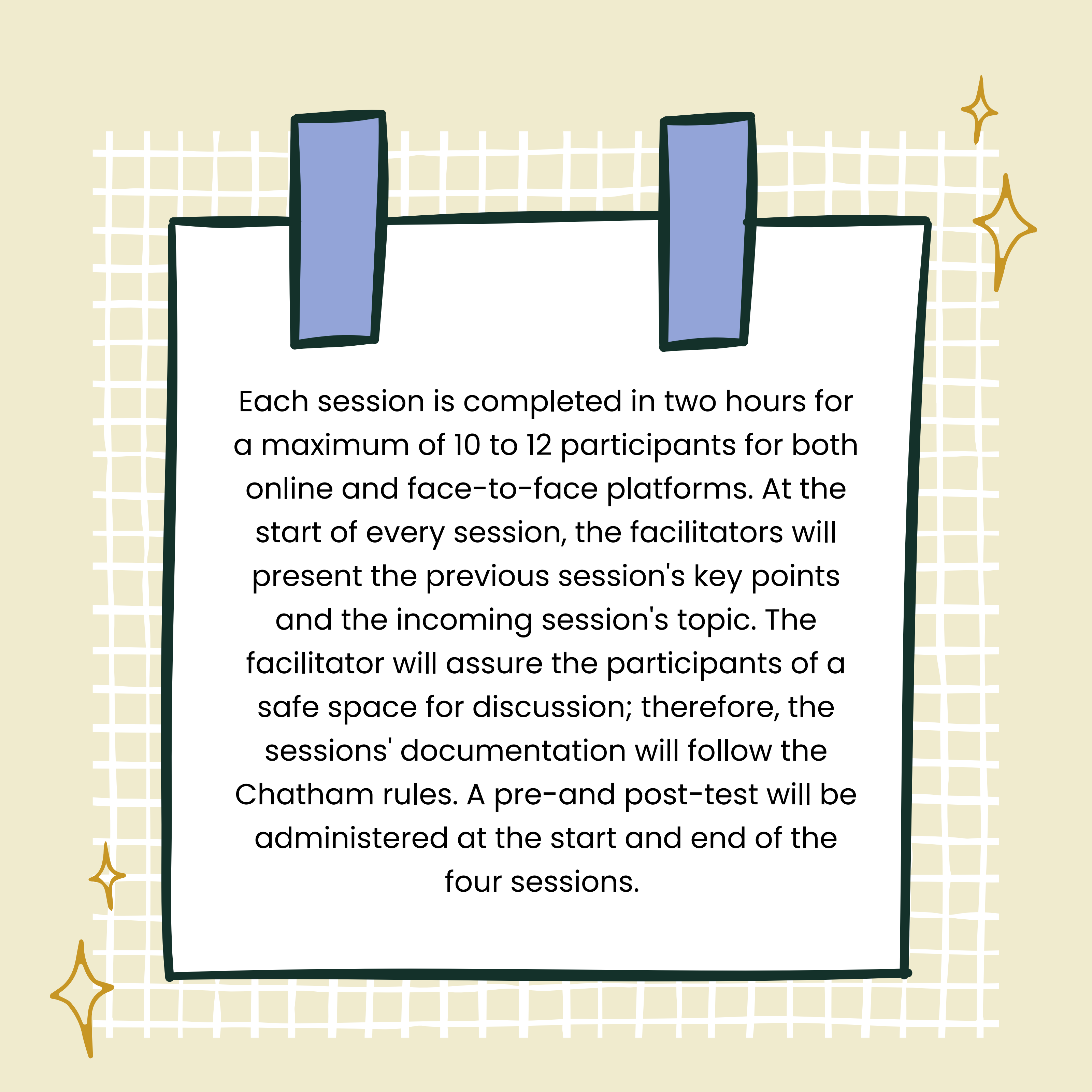
POLITICS
GOVERNANCE
DEVELOPMENT

Modules





These modules aim to deepen the participants' concepts and perspectives on democracy, good governance, and political participation. It is designed for individuals who are not engaged in organized civil society activities and have little or no interest in politics but who care about improving the society and country. A modified version of these modules - named **"Puso't Pulitika"** - has been developed for groups interested in ensuring a feminist perspective in understanding the P-G-D.



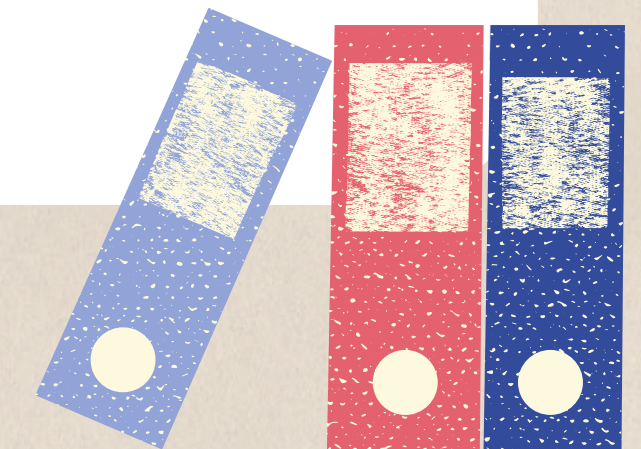
Each session is completed in two hours for a maximum of 10 to 12 participants for both online and face-to-face platforms. At the start of every session, the facilitators will present the previous session's key points and the incoming session's topic. The facilitator will assure the participants of a safe space for discussion; therefore, the sessions' documentation will follow the Chatham rules. A pre-and post-test will be administered at the start and end of the four sessions.



Session 1

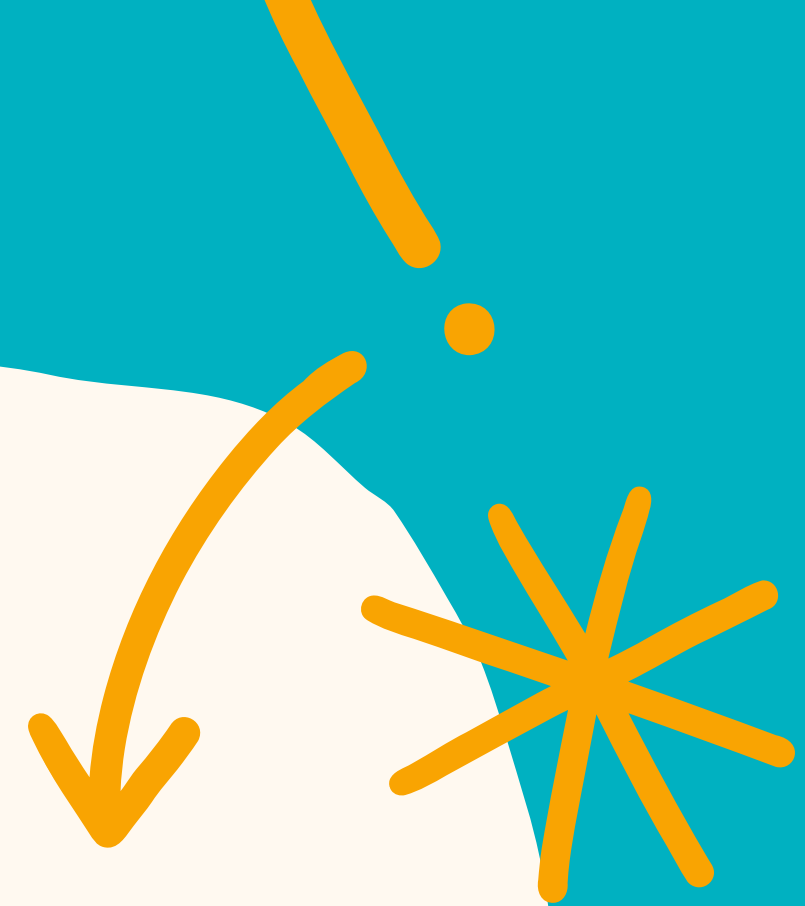
QUALITIES OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

The participants are asked to reflect on the characteristics of a good and a bad relationship (*OK na Relasyon/Di OK na Relasyon*). Upon the participants' sharing of their reflections, the facilitator will cluster the characteristics of an *OK na Relasyon/Di OK na Relasyon* in accordance with the following key characteristics of a democratic leader: **Participatory, Accountable, Equitable & Inclusive, Transparent, and Has Respect for Human Rights**. The summary will highlight that personal relationship parallel our political relationships with the leaders of our country due to the power relations that are the basis of all types of relationships. A lecture and discussion on the various **types of power (Power Over, Power With, Power To, Power Within)** will follow. The session will end with a sharing and reflection among the participants on what insights and thoughts in the session had the most impact on them.



key points:

- Our relationships will require the practice of democracy if we want to live a humane and fulfilling life.
- A democratic relationship is demonstrated by the following qualities: Participative, Transparent, Accountable, Inclusive, and Respect for Human Rights. A democratic leader would have all of these interconnected qualities.
- Personal decisions have political implications and vice versa. ("The personal is political, the political is personal.")
- Politics concerns making decisions among groups of people on how they want to be governed. This involves using power to decide who gets access and control of resources.
- Power animates all kinds of relationships, and every individual has it in them as a natural part of their being born a person. Power can either liberate or corrupt, depending on how we use it. There are four types of using power: the power within, power to, power with, and power over.






Session 2

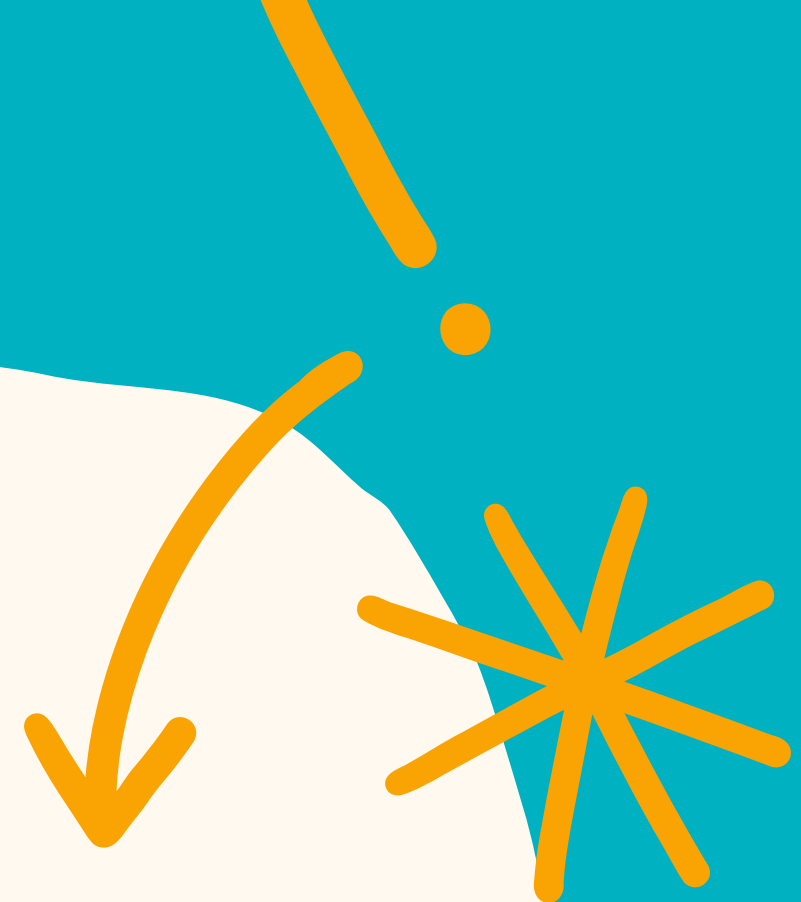
VISION OF SOCIETY AND VALUES CLARIFICATION

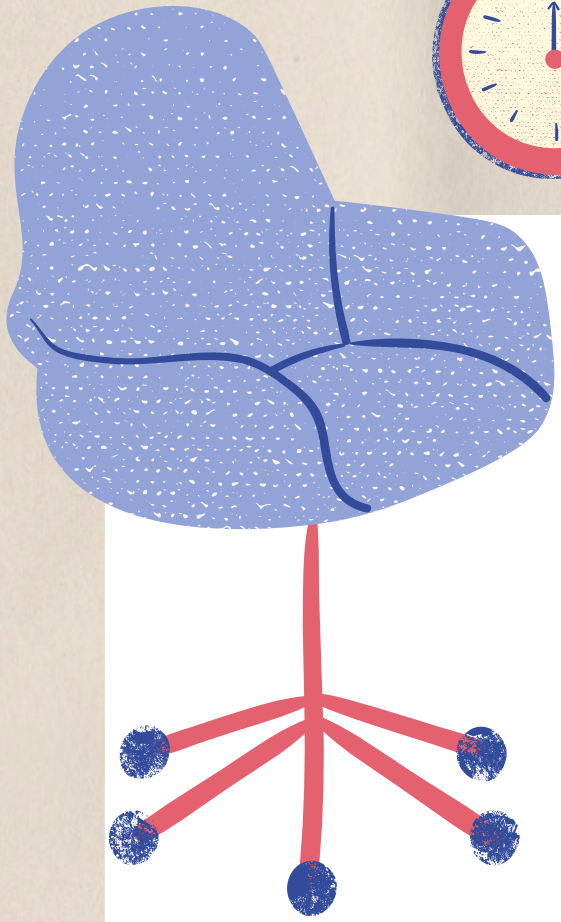
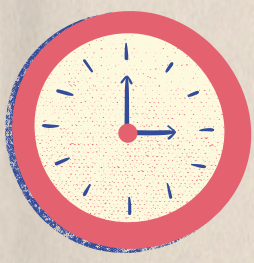
The participants are asked to illustrate their dreams for a better life for their family, self, community, and country using a vision board. Afterward, they will be asked to share and explain their vision board in the plenary. A lecture on **Authentic Humanism** (or TPP – *Tunay na Pagpapakatao at Pagkamakatao*) will follow to provide a framework for identifying core values. The participants will be asked if this framework aligns with their own core values. A discussion on **values clarification** will follow to emphasize that **our personal and political decisions spring from our own set of values**. The importance of finding time to have self-clarity on this is stressed in order to go through life with a firmer grounding rather than be swayed by external pressures.



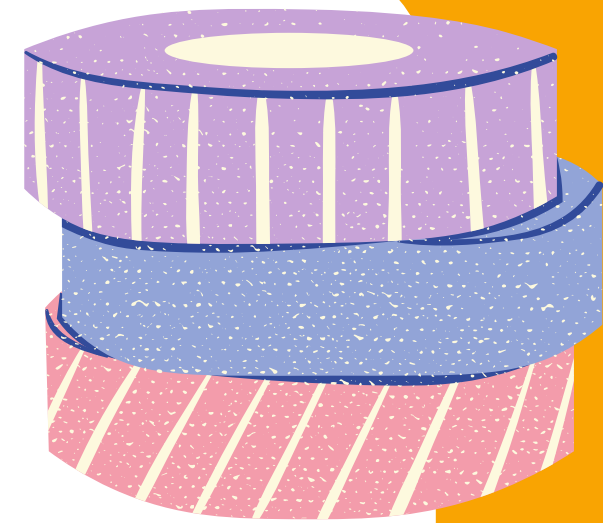
Key points:

- Core values are those values that are true for everyone and at all times. These values are represented in our vision for a better life and in our view of the human person.
- Our vision for a better life inevitably includes having a vision for a better society. Personal success will not be easy to achieve in a poor, badly governed country.
- Authentic humanism (TPP – *Tunay na Pagpapakatao at Pagkamakatao*) is a perspective of viewing the human person in terms of the following essential relationships: self, higher being, material being, and society. It is true at all times and true for everyone.
- Self-knowledge and self-clarity is a continuing process of clarifying and committing to live our core values in our personal and political lives.



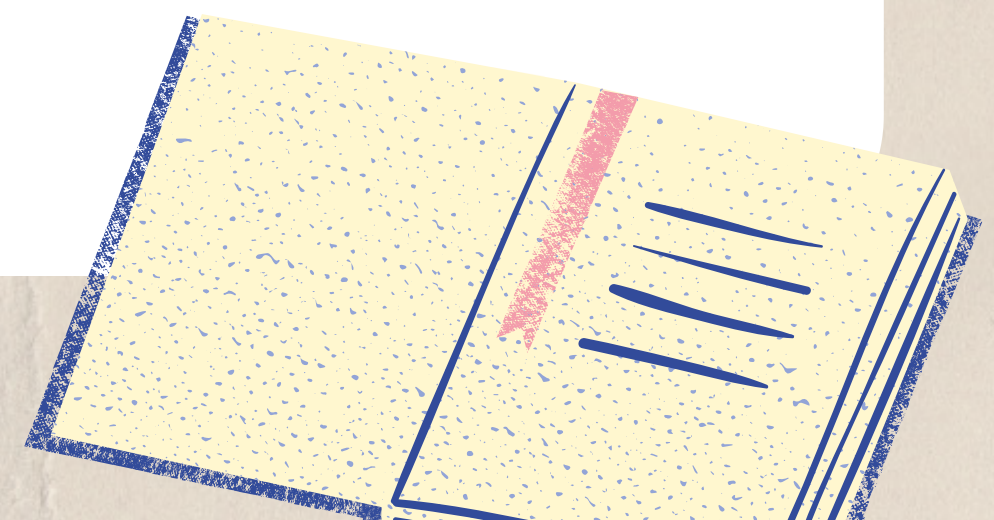


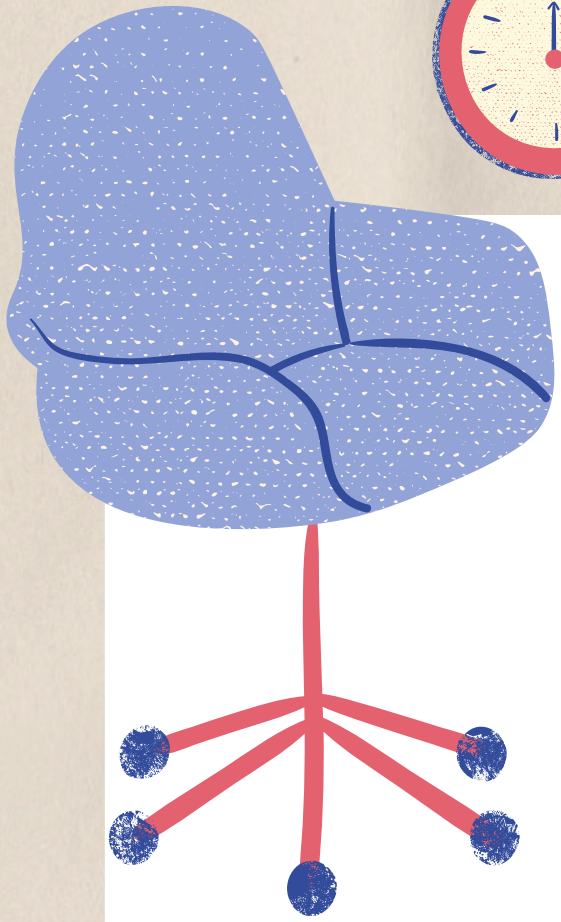
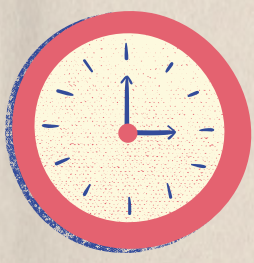
Session 3



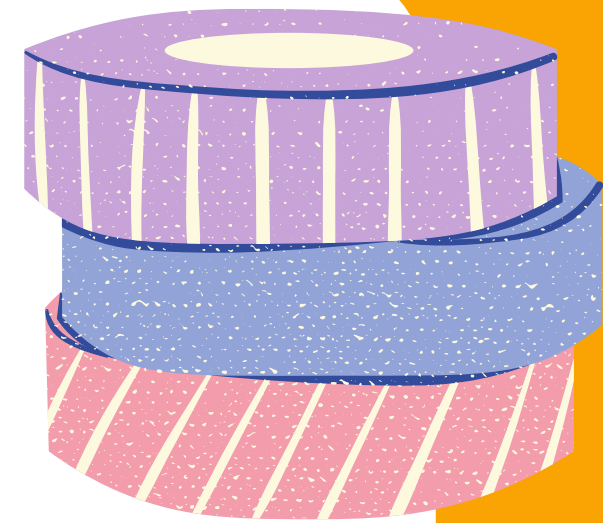
VAST POWERS OF GOVERNMENT

This session is approached using a case study of the participants' personal experiences of the pandemic. If the participants are coming from the same community/locality, they will be asked to share their experiences in terms of challenges experienced, how they coped, the help they received from the government, and what they wish the government (national and local) could have done to address the crisis. If the participants come from different locations, a presentation of the various national and local government responses to the pandemic will be presented to them. The presentation will highlight the facts and figures on the pandemic situation and what the national and local governments did and did not do to help the people to cope with the challenges.





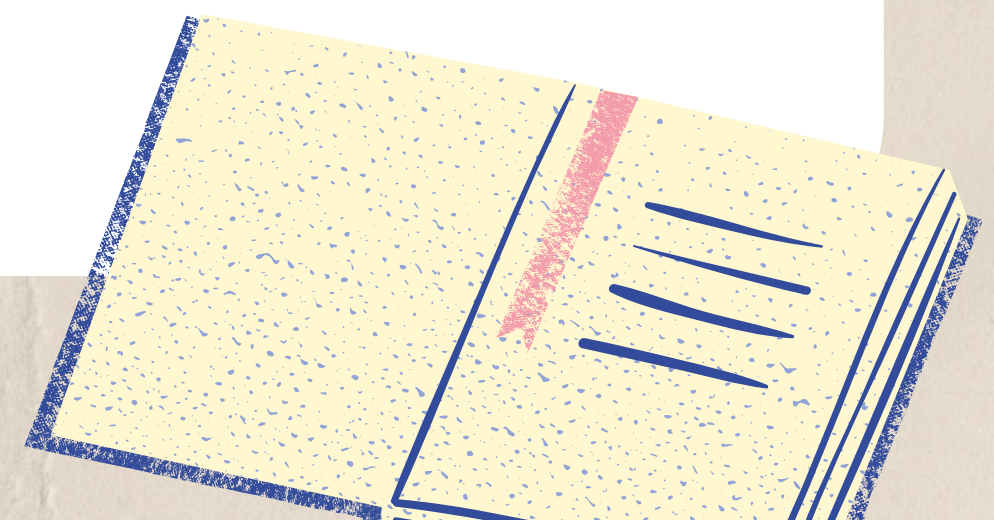
Session 3



VAST POWERS OF GOVERNMENT

A sharing session will follow, wherein each of the participants will be asked to explain their thoughts and insights from the presentation. Another brief lecture will be presented on the social contract and the Constitutional provision on sovereignty that resides with the people. The session will end with the participants giving sharing what insights and thoughts in the session had the most impact on them.

(Note: This session sometimes takes up more than two hours.)



Key points:

- The Philippines is a democratic and republican state. Sovereignty resides in the people, and all government authority emanates from them. – *Article II, Section 1 of the Philippine Constitution.*
- Our government is set up as a democracy with checks and balances and accountability mechanisms that are meant to ensure that the needs and interests of the people are given utmost primacy/priority.
- However, without the people's continuing mandate, participation, and vigilance, it will be a democracy only in form and not in substance.





Session 4

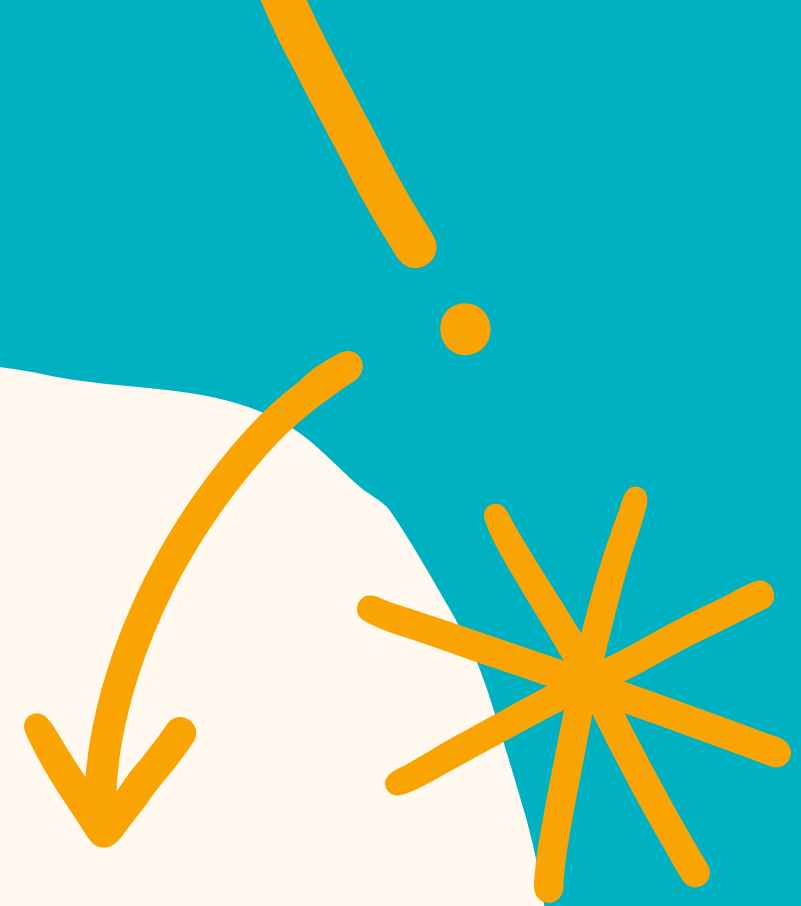
THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING INVOLVED IN POLITICS

The sessions will begin with a presentation of two to three videos explaining the importance of getting involved in politics. To draw the insights of the participants, they will be asked to complete sentences related to the meaning of politics, the different ways of getting involved in it, and why it is crucial to get involved. Then the facilitator will present the various simple ways by which any ordinary citizen can get meaningfully engaged in politics and the day-to-day governance of the country. The session will end by asking each participant to state their simple pledge and commitment to get involved. The session will end with the participants giving sharing what insights and thoughts in the session had the most impact on them.



key points:

- Politics is not only for politicians. Ordinary citizens can meaningfully engage in politics individually and collectively. They have the power to make the government work in a manner that will be supportive of their vision for a better life.
- Information is key to meaningful participation. Thus it is important that the government remains transparent, accountable, and participatory.
- Politics does not only happen during election season. It is a part of our day-to-day life, not a function that we simply delegate to elected officials and public authorities.



Feedback from participants

“It is hard to visualize how to educate voters but based on how these sessions were run, I love that they start with micro and then macro (situations). This approach can be appreciated by the undecided. The sessions help give safe spaces for political discussions with ordinary people. This provides a guide on rethinking how they see relationships with their leaders.”

Feedback from participants

"I am usually super-intimidated in group discussions about politics and current events, but I find these sessions enlightening. We should have more conversations on politics. A lot of people don't understand why politics is important."

Feedback from participants

“We really appreciate the people who conduct these conversations. It can be very tiring, and political discussions are usually toxic spaces. Through these sessions, I saw the power of words.”

Feedback from participants

"I am looking forward to the next sessions. I liked this first session because it immediately showed politics' immediate connection and relevance to our personal lives. I have not looked at politics in this same way before. I used to think of politics as related to corruption, and I am disinterested in it. But now, my view has changed. To me, the way politics was defined in this session made so much sense."