

Staunch patriot, widely-respected labor leader, internationalist, honorable parliamentarian and beloved son of the masses - this is Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran.

An unrelenting union organizer since his youth, he was also a champion of peasants and the urban poor, living among them and fighting for their demands for years until his death on May 20, 2008.

His integrity and incorruptibility shone brilliantly until his last days as he stood up against corruption in government and the plunder of the nation's wealth by the powers-that-be.

He was imprisoned several times for upholding human rights and civil liberties. He fought for laws where they benefit the people, resisted anti-democratic government schemes, exposing attempts to bring him into compliance.

Most of all, it was his ardent wish for the working class everywhere to break free from the shackles of wage slavery, and for his beloved country to achieve genuine independence and prosperity.

Thus, we have established the Crispin B. Beltran Workers' Resource Center on September 2008 to honor the legacy of this great man, who shall remain an inspiration for generations of workers and patriots to come, in the long and arduous fight for workers' rights, genuine democracy and national sovereignty.

Our Mission

The Crispin B. Beltran Resource Center (CBBRC) shall serve as an independent institution serving the needs of workers and the urban poor, and upholding Ka Bel's legacy as a parliamentarian of the people.

Specifically, CBBRC shall :

- A. Work for laws and policies that promote the interests of labor and the urban poor, and aid in building their capability for articulating their issues within the halls of parliament
- B. Build a 'Workers' School' which shall serve as a night school and skills training center for displaced workers and the unemployed as a concrete response to the problem of unemployment
- C. Provide a social and physical center where workers and their families can converge for a wide range of social activities that promote their intellectual and cultural upliftment
- D. Promote international solidarity and linkaging among labor movements of various countries on issues of common and/or international concern



Our Programs

1. Workers' Night School and Skills Training Program

A. *Semi-formal learning program* to provide participants with a general understanding of economic theories and policies and how these shape national labor programs and policies. This will be handled by a team of progressive economists and academics with familiarity, or have worked with grassroots movements and social institutions.

B. *Practical Arts and Vocational Training* to equip unskilled and displaced workers with a wider range of livelihood skills that could hopefully expand their opportunities for employment or income-generation. This shall be undertaken in cooperation with existing public and private skills training institutes.

C. *Library and Computer Training Facilities* which shall be open to trade union members and their families.

2. Policy Advocacy and Training for Grassroots Organizations

A. *Seminars and Workshops* to examine laws and public policies on issues relating to labor and urban poor rights and draw up legislative recommendations for these

B. *Trainings and Lectures on Philippine parliamentary structures and processes as an aid to capability-building for grassroots organizations in this area of concern*

3. Social and Cultural Activities for Workers' Families

A. The Center shall sponsor regular film-showing activities, lectures on socially-relevant culture and historical / museum tours for children of working class families and out-of-school youth. This shall be done in cooperation with civic and cultural organizations, existing institutes/ centers, embassies and other relevant organizations.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Donations and contributions to help us achieve our goals are very much welcome. You may get in touch with us through :

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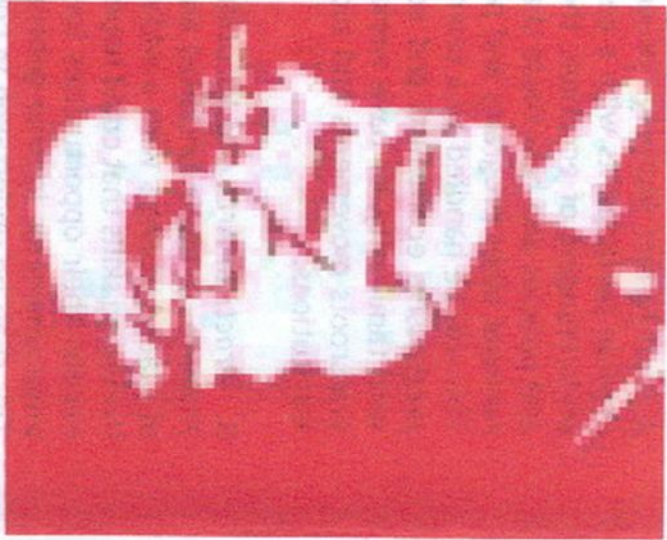
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Crispin B. Beltran Resource Center, Inc.
Our Vision

of the public he reaped even as the Arroyo regime continues to persecute him and his fellow activists.

Ka Bel, a working class hero, died at the age of 75 on May 20, 2008 and was survived by 11 children, 29 grandchildren and 5 great-grand children.

"For a progressive congressman, only so much can be done within the actual halls of Congress, as it is an institution where for the most part, non-progressive political traditions thrive. This limitation, however, we should overcome to uplift the welfare of the Filipino people. In the struggle for change, we hope to sway more and more lawmakers to side with the oppressed masses and convince them to enact laws that would serve the interests of the people." —Ka Bel

Highlights of house bills filed in Congress

- House Bill 1722- P125 wage increase across-the-board nation-wide
- House Bill 1962- P3,000 salary increase for government employees
- House Bill 5095- Amendment to the Labor Code
- House 3010- Junking of the EPIRA
- House Bill 1724- junking of the Oil Deregulation Law
- House Bill 1093- Junking of the Human Security Act

Under the repressive Martial Law, Ka Bel helped establish the Federation of Unions in Rizal and the Philippine Nationalist Labor Organization (PANALO) until KMU was founded in 1980. From 100,000, KMU's membership soared to 500,000 in the 1980s. The establishment of KMU united and strengthened the people in its fight against the fascism of the Marcos dictatorship.

When Marcos launched a crackdown in August 1982, Ka Bel was one of those arrested and detained. In November 1984, he was able to escape and went back to organizing workers and peasants in the countryside. His legal status was recognized by the Aquino administration in 1986.

When Ka Rolando "Lando" Olalia was brutally murdered in 1987, Ka Bel took over the presidency of KMU. He ran for senator under the banner of Partido ng Bayan that same year and garnered 1.52 million votes but lost due to massive "dagdag bawas" (ballot and vote switching) scheme of election fraud. He remained a leader of the militant union until March 2003.

Ka Bel was also a member of the National Council of the multi-sectoral alliance Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) from 1985 and also served as its chairperson from 1993 to 1999.

Ka Bel was cited by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism as the partylist representative in the 13th Congress with the most number of bills and resolutions filed, totalling to 130, and with a nearly perfect attendance before his arrest in February 2006.

His three-term stint in the House of Representatives has garnered him awards such as Filipino of the Year and Most Outstanding Congressman for four consecutive years from 2002-2005, and in 2006, was adjudged part of the



CRISPIN B. BELTRAN:
Labor Leader,
Activist Lawmaker

Crispin Beltran, more popularly known as "Ka Bel" in the progressive movement, is a living legend and epitome of militancy and progressive lawmaking in the country.

Having been an activist for over 50 years, Ka Bel is looked upon by laborers, peasants, urban poor and other marginalized sectors as a true defender of the toiling masses.

He survived the dark years of Martial Law, actively took part in the workers' movement of the masses. He disputed the destructive policies of globalization such as privatization and deregulation. A former Chairman of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and former chairman of the International League of People's Struggles (ILPS), he is known in 83 countries, including multi-lateral organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and United Nations.

Congressman of the Masses

From February 2001 to November 2003, he served as Vice-President of Bayan Muna Political Party and as one of its representatives to Congress where Ka Be successfully brought patriotism and the politics of the masses.

From July 2004 to March 2005, his first year as a second-term, Ka Bel has filed 9 bills and 70 resolutions. He also is co-author to several other bills.

Among his principal bills are those amending the Labor Code, legislating a P125 wage increase across-the-board, and a P3000 salary hike for government employees. He also filed a bill seeking the repeal of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) and another granting government employees rights to hold mass actions and strikes.

"My experiences as a congressman have given me valuable lessons. The Congress is a venue for airing the concerns and echoing the grievances of the people. It is a venue where the working people can register their stands and such as poverty, human rights, social justice and genuine freedom and democracy."

— Ka Bel

Ka Bel also stood firm against the privatization of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). He was at the forefront of exposing the anomalies in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and other social welfare fund government agencies.

He was a member of the House of Representatives Committees on Labor and Employment, Civil, Political and Human Rights, Energy, Government Enterprises and Privatization, Suffrage, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Civil Service and Professional Regulation, Government Reorganization, Poverty Alleviation and Overseas Workers' Affairs. He is also an active member of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Labor and Employment (COCLE).

Apart from labor and urban poor issues, Ka Bel also stood against the United States' war of aggression on Iraq and its war on terror. He was also steadfast in his call for national sovereignty and international unity against foreign intervention.

Genuine Servant of the People

Of his 75 years, he has spent 54 years serving the interests of the toiling masses.

Ka Bel started as courier of the guerillas. After the war, he worked as a janitor to support his studies. He then worked as a gasoline boy, messenger, bus driver, and later on, a taxi driver for the Manila Yellow Taxicab Company.

At age 20, he joined his fellow drivers in a strike against unfair labor practices. The police attacked their picket line, injured many and claimed the lives of three protesting workers. Since then, Ka Bel vowed to fight alongside the working class.

He studied at the Asian Labor Education Center of the University of the Philippines, but never became comfortable with the "rice and fish" unionism that prevailed during the 1950s.



Ka Bel organized the Amalgamated Taxi Drivers Association, for which he served as President from 1955 to 1963. Together with Felixberto "Ka Bert" Olalia and Feliciano reyes, leaders of the Filipino labor movement's militant tradition, he organized the Confederation of Labor of the Philippines. He was CLP's Vice-President from 1963 to 1972. Ka Bel also helped found the Philippine Workers Congress and other labor organizations such as KASAMA and PACMAP, which were legally recognized during