

# TATSULOK

ISBN 978-971-9967-09-5

## *Komiks*

Volume Number 1 | Issue Number 3 | 2011



**galang**

Building Community Strength.  
Fueling Community Growth.  
[www.galangphilippines.org](http://www.galangphilippines.org)

**A Community Project by GALANG Philippines, Inc.**

# Editorial



Building Community Strength.  
Fueling Community Growth.

[www.galangphilippines.org](http://www.galangphilippines.org)

ISBN 978-971-9967-09-5

**"Powerful Women,  
Shapers of History!"**

*"I'm not capable of anything because I'm a lesbian."*

*"I should be grateful that she condescended to be with me in spite of my being a lesbian."*

*"I need to persevere because being a lesbian is difficult enough and still I can't seem to do anything right."*

Have you ever caught yourself saying or thinking any of the above? Do you look for somebody or something to blame for your being born a lesbian? It's not a big surprise if your answer is "yes." And you should know that you're not alone. There are many of us who look down on ourselves for being lesbians. It is as if being a lesbian is a curse that we must be ashamed of. But must we really keep putting ourselves down for being our true selves?

It's possible that we can't help feeling this way because we are rejected and despised by so many individuals and institutions around us, including churches, schools, government, even family and friends. Being told repeatedly that we are worthless and being denied the right to livelihood and education because being a lesbian is "immoral", "abnormal" or "cursed", make it incredibly easy to feel hopeless. But if life were a boxing match, are we ready to just throw in the towel?

The fight is far from over, sister! The truth is that it's only just begun! Together with organizations like GALANG, which helps organize lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LBT) community groups, enhances LBT awareness and understanding, and develops their ability to articulate sectoral issues, we can correct unfounded beliefs about us and change the negative perception of women who love other women. The process of changing and shaping society's consciousness may be slow and daunting but rallying our forces together to effect change is better than wallowing in solitude and despair!

This is not the time to languish in self-pity. We can't avoid stumbling from time to time but we need to pick ourselves up because WE ARE LESBIANS—we are powerful women, agents of change, capable of helping ourselves and each other, community-minded, and capable of changing history!

**AML**

**"What is GALANG Philippines?"**

Galang is the Filipino word for respect. The word signifies respect for human rights and human diversity, which lies at the core of GALANG Philippines' struggle for equality and justice.

GALANG Philippines is a lesbian-initiated, lesbian-run feminist human rights organization that works with urban poor lesbians, bisexual women, and trans men (LBTs) who struggle with the multiple oppressions of class, poverty, sex, gender identity/expression, and sexual orientation.

GALANG currently employs strategies aimed at building the capacities of urban poor LBTs to help or better themselves. Its initiatives include trainings, workshops, action researches, and the publication of popular education (PopEd) materials, such as Tatsulok Komiks.

# THE ADVENTURES OF PAMBOY D'TOMBOY

Written by: Bonifacio P. Ilagan | Illustrated by: Franz Garcia | Translated & edited by: Armina Velarde

LAST ISSUE: A GROUP OF LESBIAN AND GAY FRIENDS, FORMED BY PAMBOY, MILES, BRAD, JACK, JILL, JINKY, AND BERTA EMERGED IN THE URBAN POOR COMMUNITY OF STA. ELENA. MELODY, WITH WHOM PAMBOY IS ENAMORED AND PAMBOY'S BABY SISTER GLENDA ARE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. THEY ARE FACED WITH A NUMBER OF OBSTACLES, BUT UNDER PAMBOY'S IMPLICIT LEADERSHIP, THEY OVERCOME EACH ONE.

IN THE BEGINNING, IT WAS HARD FOR PAMBOY'S FAMILY TO ACCEPT HER AS A LESBIAN. BUT THE GROUP'S VALIANT EFFORTS TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE FIRE THAT BROKE OUT IN A NEARBY NEIGHBORHOOD EARNED THEM THE RESPECT OF PAMBOY'S FAMILY AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. THE GROUP'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT ALSO SHONE WHEN MILES' GIRLFRIEND BRAD WAS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED.




We must file a petition!

We have rights as residents, we can't just give up, we have to fight!

The government struck a deal with the mall developers. We know that the government is in the pockets of big corporations. There's not much we can do.

ON TOP OF IT ALL, A THREAT OF DEMOLITION NOW LOOMS OVER THE POOR COMMUNITY OF STA. ELENA.





Hey, that was nice of you  
to pick me up at work.

Don't worry about it.  
Hey, there's our ride!

THE TWO GET OFF AT THE PARK FOR A WALK.

Do you have lots of friends  
at school?

I do.

Male friends?

Boys, girls, gays, lesbians.

How come I don't see you hang  
out with them after school?

Well, I spend enough time  
with them at school.

PAMBOY SHIFTS INTO  
A SERIOUS TONE...

Why do you spend  
time with me?

MELODY IS BOTH INTRIGUED  
AND TAKEN ABACK BY PAMBOY'S  
QUESTION.

MELODY BLUSHES, GROPING FOR  
AN ANSWER.



SEEING HOW UNCOMFORTABLE  
MELODY IS, PAMBOY WISHES  
SHE COULD TAKE THE  
QUESTION BACK.



I'm sorry, I didn't  
mean to make you  
uncomfortable.

PAMBOY IS COMPLETELY  
UNPREPARED FOR  
MELODY'S ANSWER.

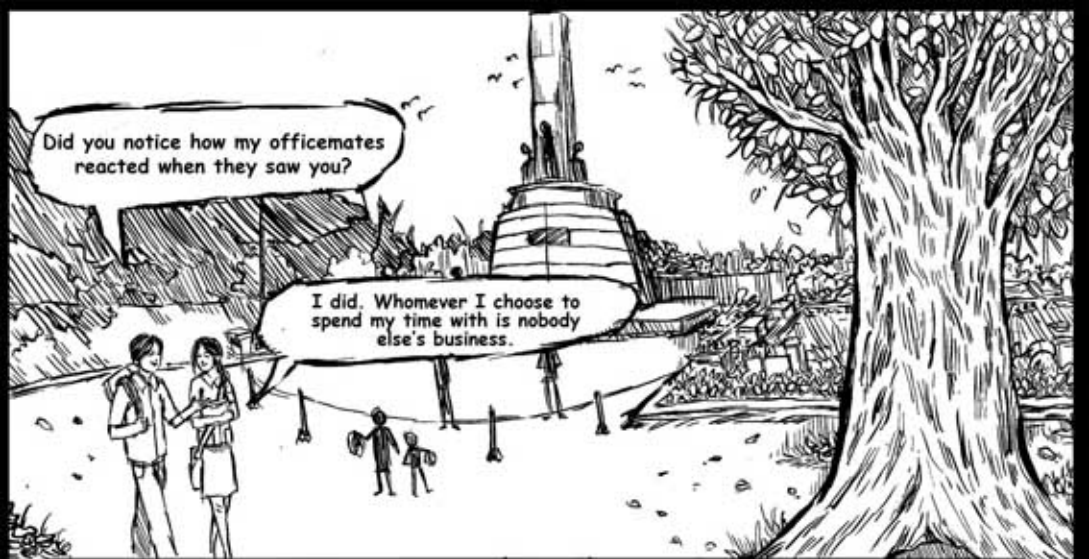


I spend time with you because  
I'm fond of you. I enjoy being  
with you more than anybody else.

NOW IT'S PAMBOY'S TURN TO BLUSH.




I bet you didn't  
expect that, did you?



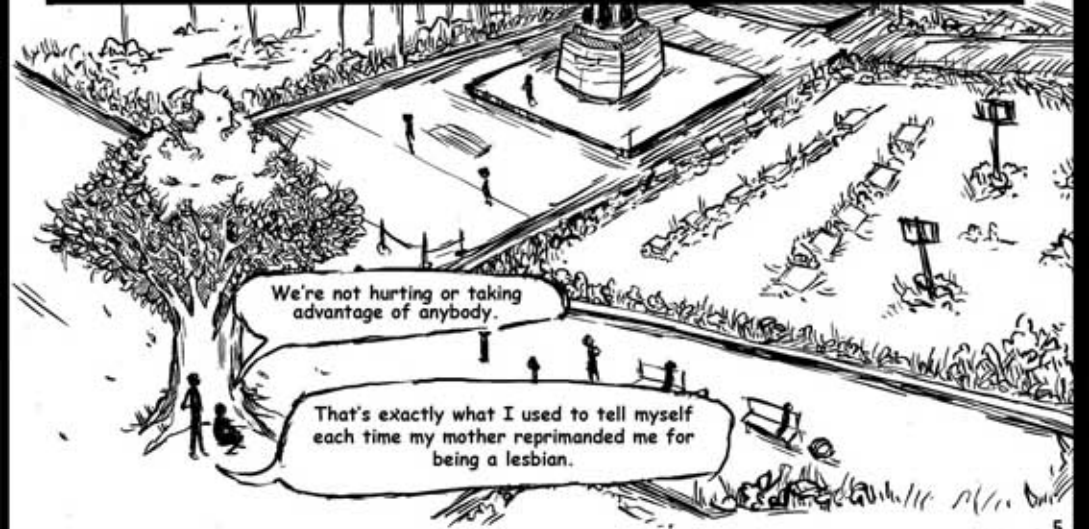
Did you notice how my officemates reacted when they saw you?

I did. Whomever I choose to spend my time with is nobody else's business.



I hope you know what you're saying. People will start talking about us.

Let them... all I know is that we're not doing anything wrong.



We're not hurting or taking advantage of anybody.

That's exactly what I used to tell myself each time my mother reprimanded me for being a lesbian.



REMEMBER THAT NIGHT WHEN THOSE TWO DRUNKARDS  
TRIED TO HARASS YOU, AND I STEPPED IN TO HELP?  
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ME BUT I KNEW YOU.





You mean you already liked me back then?

Yes, I've been falling for you from afar.

PAMBOY MUSTERS ALL HER COURAGE TO ASK MELODY--



Melody... does this mean we're a couple?

FOR A WHILE, THERE IS ONLY SILENCE BETWEEN THEM...



I'm not sure, Pamboy. I've never felt this way before. All I know is that I want to be close to you all the time. I never want to be away from you.



SWOONING WITH HAPPINESS, PAMBOY REACHES FOR MELODY'S HAND.



PAMBOY AND MELODY SPEND THEIR FIRST ROMANTIC MOMENT UNDER A TREE, AWAY FROM PRYING EYES, A TRULY PRECIOUS MOMENT THEY WILL BOTH CHERISH FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.



WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR THEM TO GO HOME, PAMBOY AND MELODY GIDDILY HOLD HANDS THROUGHOUT THE JEEPNEY RIDE HOME.



ALL THE WAY TO STA. ELENA, PAMBOY DOESN'T LET GO OF MELODY'S HAND.

Hi-Hi-Hi! People will sure talk about us since we can't keep our hands off of each other.

Brad and Miles have visitors.

THEY PASS BY MILES AND BRAD'S PLACE WHERE A FIGHT APPEARS TO BE BREWING...

Visitors or intruders?

**MOMMY IDA'S  
STORE**

Are you sure you're going to be okay without an escort?

My place is just four blocks away, silly!

Be safe, love!

MELODY DROPS PAMBOY OFF.

Ate Pamboy! Quit waving goodbye! Ate Melody's tricycle is long gone. She's probably home by now.

YEEES!

Did you win the lottery?

BETTER THAN WINNING THE LOTTERY, BABY SIS!

PAMBOY IS POSITIVELY ECSTATIC.



Hello, Sisters...!  
Hello, Mother!



Mom, here's my paycheck,  
to help with the household and  
Glenda's school expenses.

There's something  
strange about you.



Nah, I'm just in a good  
mood, big sis!



Ate! Ate Pamboy!


What is it?

You went on a date with Ate Melody, right?

You're so nosy!

So what's the score?

Secret!



Did Brad or anyone from the group drop by earlier?

No. Why?

I saw them on my way home, I hope they're okay.

PAMBOY SUDDENLY REMEMBERS THE SCENE AT BRAD AND MILES' PLACE.

PAMBOY HASTILY GETS DRESSED AND RUSHES OUT THE DOOR.



PAMBOY'S HUNCH IS RIGHT.

My cousins paid us a visit.

The same ones who bullied me at the hospital.

They want me to break up with Miles.

They said our relationship brought shame to their family!

Why the sudden interest in your lives now?

When they learned about the stabbing, they thought I was going to kick the bucket.

So they actually care about you?

Yeah, right!

My mother left me a piece of land in the province when she died. My relatives want that land. They were scared that if I died the property would go to Miles instead of them.

PREVIOUSLY: BRAD WAS ATTACKED LAST DECEMBER. MILES TOOK CARE OF HER WHEN SHE WAS AT THE HOSPITAL UNTIL BRAD'S RELATIVES SHOWED UP AND THREW MILES OUT. THEY CLAIMED THAT SINCE MILES WAS NOT FAMILY, SHE HAD NO RIGHT TO CARE FOR BRAD.

THAT EVENING, AT JACK AND JILL'S HOME....

I had no idea Brad was a land owner. If I were Miles, I would convince her to move and start a life there, where they don't have to pay rent and live in such awful conditions.

What would they do there?

They can do so much in the province. They can plant crops, raise animals.... I must say that Miles is lucky to have Brad.

JILL IS COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT JACK IS SEETHING WITH JEALOUSY. JACK, AS IT HAPPENS IS VERY INSECURE.

Jack! Jack! Where are you going? What did I do? Jack!!!

JACK TAKES OFF AND FINDS HER OLD DRINKING BUDDIES.

Hey, long time no see, Jack!

Good to know you haven't forgotten about us!

AFTER SOME FRANTIC SEARCH, JILL FINDS JACK....

Jack, what's the matter with you, I was worried sick!


Oh, oh, here comes the old ball and chain!

What did I do wrong?

You know damn well what you did!


No, I don't....

Women and their drama!




Now I know what you really are: a gold digger! You want Brad for her inheritance, then go be with her because I have nothing!

JILL IS  
REDUCED  
TO  
TEARS.



How can you think that of me? I meant nothing by it.

I don't believe you! You're better off with Brad!



Take it easy, Jack!

JILL IS DEEPLY WOUNDED BY JACK'S OUTBURST. SHE DECIDES TO GO TO THE ONLY PLACE WHERE SHE KNOWS SHE IS SURE TO FIND A SHOULDER SHE CAN CRY ON.

I apologize for dropping in unannounced, Mommy Ida, I had nowhere else to go. I know Pamboy is much younger than me but she is wise beyond her years and I desperately need her help.

That Jack must be out of her damn mind!

JILL TEARFULLY TELLS PAMBOY AND HER FAMILY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

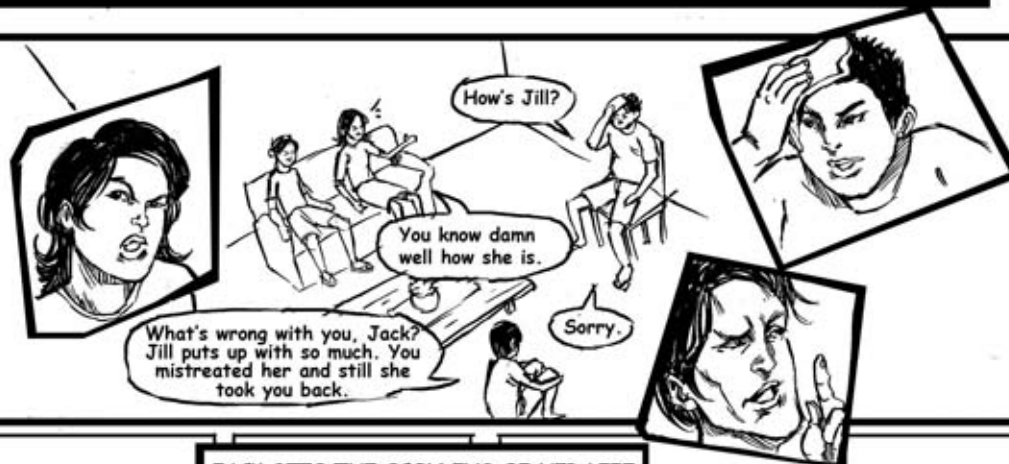


MOMMY IDA ASKS JILL TO SPEND THE NIGHT. JILL GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS.... SHE TRIES TO SLEEP BUT JILL'S ANGUISH KEEPS HER AWAKE THROUGH THE NIGHT.



FIRST THING SATURDAY MORNING, PAMBOY, JINKY, AND BERTA HEAD OVER TO JACK'S.

THEY FIND JACK SUFFERING FROM A TERRIBLE HANGOVER.



JACK GETS THE SCOLDING OF HER LIFE.

You should be ashamed of yourself!

Don't apologize to us.

It's strike two for you, Jack! Remember you promised us you'd change!\*

But I didn't hurt her!

\*JACK HAD MISTREATED JILL IN THE PAST, AND THE GANG CONFRONTED HER ABOUT IT. JACK ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS AND SWORE THAT SHE WOULD CHANGE AND BE A BETTER GIRLFRIEND TO JILL.

You didn't hurt her physically but it doesn't mean Jill isn't hurting. You treated her like a doormat!

We know how difficult it is to be in your situation, Jill is the one who puts food on the table and that makes you an insecure mess.

Help me get Jill back, please.

We're friends and we need to be honest with each other.



"Nursing your bruised ego won't get you anywhere. You and Jill are life partners so you need to help each other. She loves you so much and you need to love yourself too by becoming a responsible and considerate person."

We have enough problems, as it is. A wounded pride shouldn't be one of them.

Yeah, we haven't even formalized it yet.

For one thing, we should be worrying about the future of our organization.

THEIR PLANS TO ESTABLISH THEIR GROUP AS A FORMAL ORGANIZATION ARE LONG OVERDUE. THEY KNOW THERE'S MUCH THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND THEY'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET.

PAMBOY, JINKY, AND BERTA LEAVE SO JACK AND JILL CAN TALK PRIVATELY.

THE GANG CONVENES ONCE MORE TO GET JACK AND JILL BACK TOGETHER.

UPON LEAVING JACK AND JILL, PAMBOY DECIDES TO PAY MELODY A VISIT.



### March 8: A Legacy of Sisterhood

On March 8, 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City to fight for their rights, not as women, but as human beings. This historic day is commemorated all over the world. As a woman, I hope to continue the legacy left by these brave women by promoting solidarity amongst women

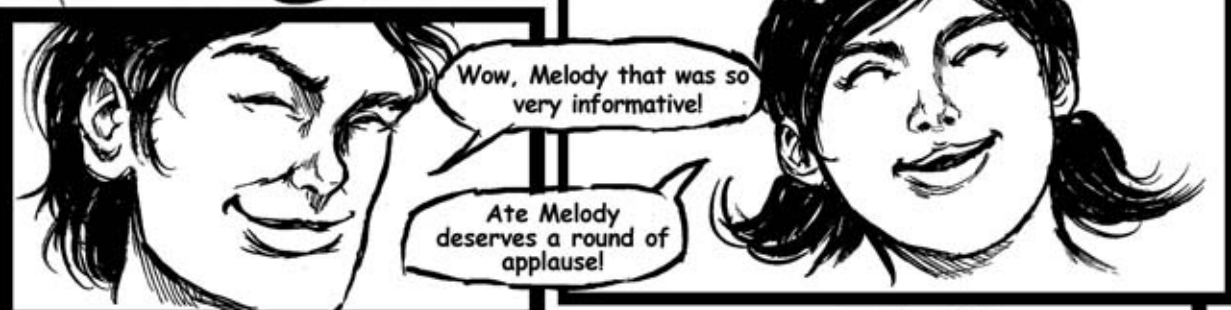
Interesting....

I hope I win....



# MOMMY IDA'S STORE

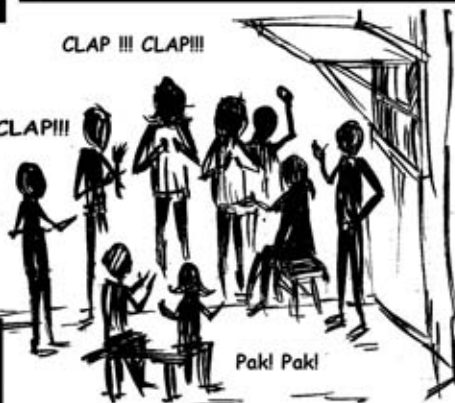
MELODY TALKS TO THE GROUP ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.\* EVERYONE IS EAGER TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORIC DAY.



CLAP !!! CLAP!!!  
CLAP !!! CLAP!!!



A VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBER WALKS UP TO THE GROUP.

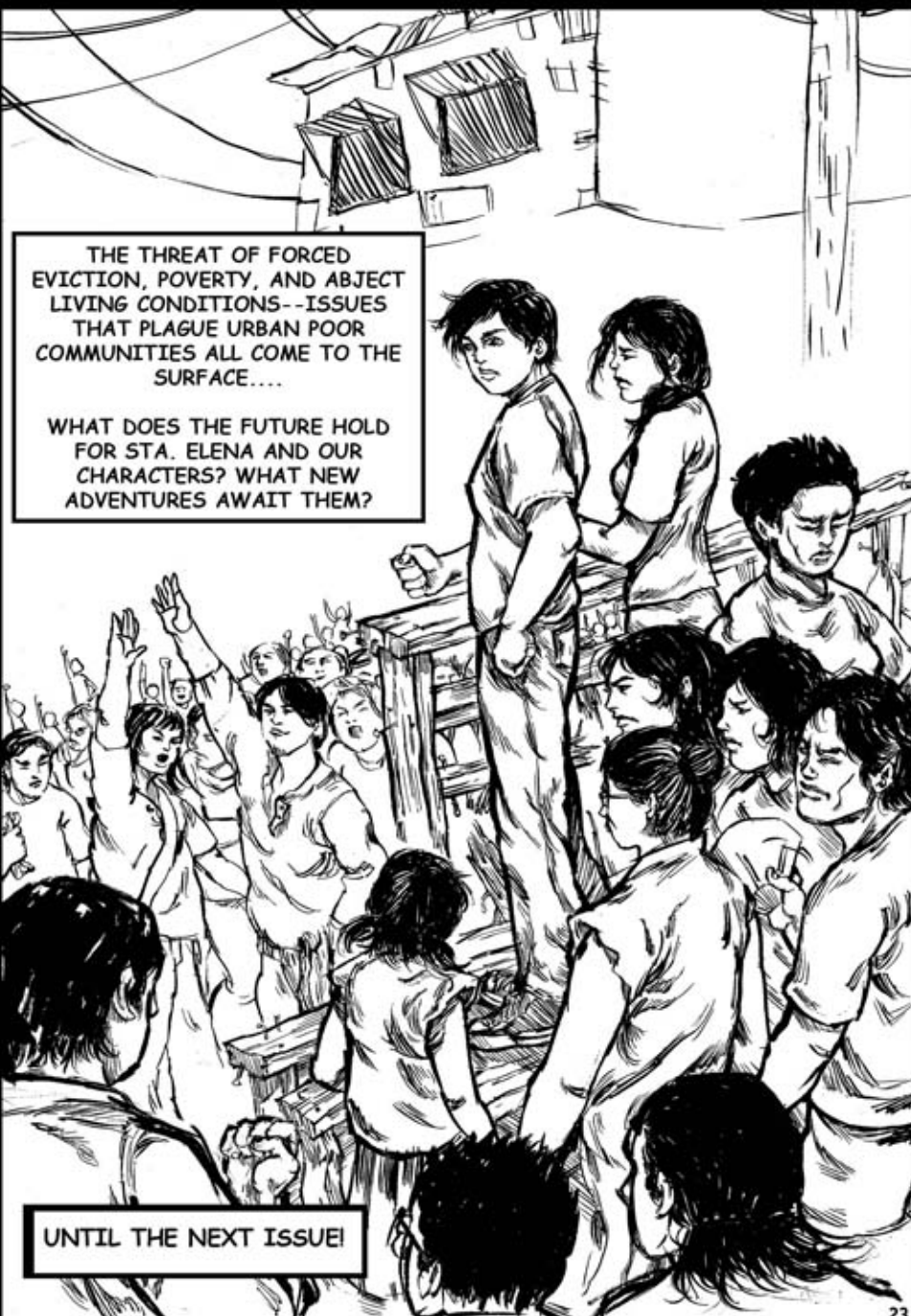


\*PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 24 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.



THE SURVEY GATHERS EXHAUSTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESIDENTS OF STA. ELENA, SUCH AS LENGTH OF STAY, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD, SOURCE OF INCOME, HOME OWNERSHIP, ETC.





THE THREAT OF FORCED  
EVICTION, POVERTY, AND ABJECT  
LIVING CONDITIONS--ISSUES  
THAT PLAGUE URBAN POOR  
COMMUNITIES ALL COME TO THE  
SURFACE....

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD  
FOR STA. ELENA AND OUR  
CHARACTERS? WHAT NEW  
ADVENTURES AWAIT THEM?

UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE!

# "What is International Women's Day?"

International Women's Day

On March 8, 1908, women factory workers took to the streets of New York City to demand improved working conditions, increased wages, reduced work hours, and improved conditions of women's lives in general in the United States. Through this demonstration, they shed light on the unjust circumstances imposed on women. Their fearlessness in standing up for their rights inspired women all over the world. Just two years after that historic march, in 1910, the International Socialist Congress met in Copenhagen, Denmark, and declared March 8 International Women's Day.



Clara Zetkin (left), founder of Women's International Day with friend Rosa Luxemburg.

International Women's Day is commemorated annually and its celebration is often led by women's groups in the Philippines and the rest of the world. International Women's Day is an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the women's movement in various spheres and sectors, particularly in public, political, economic, and social policy.

# "What are the contributions of Filipino lesbians to the commemoration of International Women's Day?"

A contingent of Filipino lesbian feminists marched for the first time in 1993 at the Women's Day March in Manila. Despite resistance and attacks from some members of women's groups, the lesbians bravely asserted that they deserved to occupy a place in the women's movement for they were women too. It was also the first time lesbian activists had the courage to ascend the historic Mendiola stage to deliver a speech on violence against lesbians. Their message served as a powerful reminder to society that violence against lesbians is violence against women.



At present, Filipino lesbians continue to participate in the commemoration of International Women's Day. On March 7, 2010, the lesbians of Barangay Pansol, Quezon City held a presentation at the barangay plaza to honor and thank the important women

in their lives. They were immensely proud to spearhead the historic initiative that allowed them to prove themselves as active and valuable community members.



## BUILDING COMMUNITY STRENGTH. FUELING COMMUNITY GROWTH.

Tatsulok Komiks is GALANG's response to the need of urban poor lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders (LBTs) for a popular or accessible medium of communication that can help broaden and deepen their understanding of their human rights. It is GALANG's fervent hope that readers do learn and grow in understanding, as well as glean positive life lessons from it, the most important of which is treating everyone with respect and recognizing that every human being is deserving of respect and equal rights.

Written by Bonifacio P. Ilagan | Illustrated by Franz Garcia

Published by GALANG Philippines, Inc.

Under the management and coordination of Anne Lim

Translation, editing, and layout by Armina Gracia T. Velarde

GALANG thanks its partners for their support in having Tatsulok Komiks published.



You may send your questions, comments, and suggestions to:

Email: [galangphilippines@gmail.com](mailto:galangphilippines@gmail.com)  
[inquiry@galangphilippines.org](mailto:inquiry@galangphilippines.org)

Facebook: GALANG Philippines  
Website: [www.galangphilippines.org](http://www.galangphilippines.org)

Telefax: +63 2 435 4103

Mobile: +63 927 293 3731

Address: Unit 312 Llanar Building, 77 Xavierville Avenue  
corner B. Gonzales Street, Loyola Heights  
Quezon City, Metro Manila 1108, Philippines

ISBN 978-971-9967-09-5

### COPYRIGHT NOTICE

No part of this publication may be used, translated or reproduced in any form without first obtaining written permission from the publisher.