

# Malaysian firm offers \$150-M for DMIA terminal expansion

BY JOEY AGUILAR

**C**LARK FREEPORT – A group of influential Malaysian investors has offered to infuse at least \$150 million in direct investments for the expansion of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport's (DMIA) passenger terminal here.

Bristeel Overseas Ventures Inc., (BOV), a group made up of publicly listed conglomerates based in Malaysia, said it is willing to enter into a joint venture

agreement with the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) for the development and expansion of the DMIA Terminal 1 with

PAGE 6 PLEASE



**SWEET VICTORY.** Former board member Lilia "Nanay Baby" Pineda relishes her triumph in the gubernatorial race for Pampanga as Provincial Comelec Supervisor Temmie Lambino proclaims her winner to the delight of allies including congresswoman-elect Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER ALAGOS

## Alvarado, panalo sa Bulacan

NI DINO BALABO

**MALOLOS CITY**—Ipirinoklama na bilang ika-28 gobenador ng Bulacan si Willy Alvarado kagabi matapos na lumamang ng mahigit sa 41,000 boto

kay dating Gob. Josie Dela Cruz kaugnay ng makasaysayang automat-ed elections noong Lunes, Mayo 10.

Si Alvarado na kasalukuyang bise-gobernador

at nagmula sa bayan ng Hagonoy ay nakaipon ng kabuuang botong 533,527 kumpara sa 492,468 boto na naipon ni Dela Cruz na nagmula naman sa bayan ng Bocaue.

Ang pagwawagi ni Alvarado kay Dela Cruz ay itinuturing na isang pag-uulit ng kasaysayan dahil sa noong huling bahagi ng dekada 50 ay tinalo ni dating Gob. Tomas Martin ng

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### MAYORS SAY

## 'Pineda a listening governor'

BY JOEY PAVIA

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** – "Pineda will be a listening governor."

Thus said Pampanga Mayor's League (PML) secretary-general Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo as he and other PML members attended the proclamation of governor-elect Lilia "Baby" Pineda at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center here Wednesday night.

"The PML could now work well with the incoming governor benefiting the

people of the province," said Pelayo, who had a strained relationship with Gov. Eddie Panlilio as soon as the priest-turned-politician took his post in 2007.

Pineda scored a sweet revenge against Panlilio as she got 488,521 votes while the incumbent governor had 242,367 votes. Pineda lost by 1,147 votes to Panlilio in 2007 but the Commission on Elections (Comelec) en banc last week affirmed the victory of the former senior board member against the former parish priest of Betis, Guagua.

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**OPTIMISTIC.** PML secretary general Pelayo (right) in a huddle with Mayors (L-R) Morales, Tetangco, Naguit and Tumang at the Bren Guiao gym, City of San Fernando. PHOTO BY JOEY PAVIA



# Pilmico conducts free circumcision

PILMICO Animal Nutrition Corporation spearheaded "Astig Ka Boy Year 5 – Li-breng Tuli sa Tag-init" recently at Barangay Sto. Rosario, Capas, Tarlac.

This is the fifth year of the health initiative of Pilmico together with Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. The activity aims to continuously provide free and safe circumcision to the kids of Capas, Tarlac. With the help of the volunteers from the Capas Rural Health Unit headed by Dr. Bivenvenida Cabezon, a total of 102 kids from 8 to 15 years old were successfully circumcised. Pilmico also provided free medicines for all the patients.

Sto. Rosario Barangay Captain Raul

Rivera extended his gratitude to Pilmico for its health initiative program. Dental mission and free eye clinic will also be given to the selected barangays of Capas, Tarlac as part of the corporate social responsibility of the company this year.

Pilmico Animal Nutrition Corporation, a subsidiary of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, is manufacturing high quality animal nutrition products. It has a commercial feeds manufacturing plant in Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac and in Iligan City. It also has a swine breeding and finishing operations in barangays Aranguren and Cut-Cut also in Capas, Tarlac.



Pilmico ComRel Team together with Capas Rural Health Unit volunteers.

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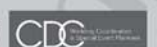
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# Smart, PLDT contribute to polls' success

BY JOEY PAVIA

ANGELES CITY – The two leading communication firms in country contributed to the success of the first-ever automated elections in the country.

Disclosing this to Punto yesterday, Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company (PLDT) and Smart communications spokesman Ramon Isberto said "overall, the fixed and mobile networks of PLDT and Smart, respectively, successfully transmitted election returns from polling precincts and canvassing centers in various parts of the country, thus contributing to the unprecedentedly rapid tabulation of votes for both national and local offices."

"About 84% of the total number of Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines had already transmitted their results, according to the COMELEC," he added.

Isberto said "exhaustive preparations" prior to the polls enabled us to operate our networks trouble-free."

"While the just concluded elections were an exciting event for Filipino voters,

network-wise, for PLDT and Smart, it was uneventful," he said.

Smart's nationwide cellular network provided GPRS connectivity that enabled PCOS machines to transmit election returns. Smartmatic acquired about 30,000 SIM cards for use in the PCOS machine modems, of which over 18,300 were used to transmit election returns in different parts of the country, according to Isberto.

PLDT provided DSL broadband services for municipal and city canvassing centers, fiber optic connectivity for the data servers of the Commission on Elections, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas. Isberto added that PLDT also provided back up data center services for Smartmatic.

Isberto said that networks of PLDT and Smart did not suffer any major outages during the elections nor were these adversely affected by power outages in various parts of the country.

Both firms are headed by Manny V. Pangilinan.

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## 'Pineda a listening governor'

FROM PAGE 1

Pelayo said he would ask Pineda to prioritize five programs, namely: flood control system, public education, health service, livelihood projects and improvement of the economy and the attraction of investors.

Mexico Mayor Teddy Tumang said "needless to say we are happy that Pineda won." He said he would ask the former three-term Lubao mayor to improve the facilities and operations at Mexico Community Hospital in Barangay San Carlos, the first-ever public hospital in the town.

Apalit Mayor Oscar D. Tetangco Jr., for his part, said he would urge Pineda to build a public hospital in his town.

"Apalit doesn't have a public hospital yet. It will not just benefit my town-mates but residents in the 4<sup>th</sup> district of the province because we are at the center," said Tetangco, who was charged by Provincial Administrator Vivian Dabu before the Ombudsman a week before the polls for "theft of minerals, obstruction of justice, graft and corruption practices and violation of tax ordinance."

Mabalacat Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales said he would ask Pineda to "overhaul" the facilities and services at the Mabalacat District Hospi-

tal (MDH) and the birthing stations he established at the resettlement centers at Madapdap and Mawaque.

He would also ask Pineda to help him send more college students at the Mabalacat Community College (MCC), the first-ever public college in

Pampanga run by a local government unit.

Third District Board-member-elect Trina Dizon, for her part, said she would push for her Children Welfare Code (CWD) at the provincial board "under the government of Pineda."

Dressed in an all-red

attire, Dizon said the CWD was an ordinance she did as member of the Mexico town council.

"I am quite sure the new governor will support my projects and legislations supportive of women and children," said Dizon.

Vice Gov. Joseller "Yeng" Guaio won his re-

election bid against businessman Marco Lazatin, runningmate of Panlilio of the Liberal Party (LP). He was not able to attend the proclamation rites at the BGCC presided over by Comelec provincial election officer Atty. Temmie Lambino. Guaio was reportedly in Japan.

Other mayors who went to congratulate Pineda were Lito Naguit of Sto. Tomas, Romy Pecson of Magalang, Digos Canlas of San Simon and Ric Rivera of Guagua, Edgar Flores of Minalin, Peter Flores of Masantol and Omeng Concepcion of Sta. Ana.

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## Leading the way

EVEN AS the animosity between winners and losers in the elections just past continues to simmer, the City of San Fernando has begun the reconciliation process, thereby leading the way – as always – for other local government units to follow.

At Tuesday's proclamation of winners, amity and fraternity blurred political lines, auguring well for a unity of purpose – to serve the Fernandino well – among the legislative and executive branches.

"I intentionally asked the city administrator to invite all the winners, irrespective of party affiliation, to join us in this noon proclamation because this not party politics but a joint venture to serve." So was Mayor Oscar S. Rodriguez quoted as saying.

The world-class mayor cited the "high political maturity" of the San Fernando electorate "reflective of the results of the elections." He said all the winners were "qualified and truly deserving of the positions they were voted into."

Continued Rodriguez: "The election campaign may have been heated, but a climate of peace pervaded the city. That makes us most happy. The elections are past, now comes the call to serve. I do expect from our newcomers and the re-elected to focus, to channel their energies for the good of the City of San Fernando. We have begun making impression everywhere of good governance at work here, and we have started making a difference."

No less than former Finance Secretary Jess Estanislao who declared in a business forum in Makati recently that good governance is at work "only in the City of San Fernando, with Mayor Oscar Rodriguez."

Good governance, said Rodriguez, is the elected official's "obligation to those who voted for us."

And at the proclamation, Rodriguez sounded that call with the corresponding appeal to one and all: "It's time to move on, reconcile and unite for our people."

Now were all other local government units as dedicated and committed to their constituents...



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## Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

The congressional contests are a ho-hum, I predicted. Ho-hum indeed they were: Cong Tarzan Lazatin, Cong Dong Gonzales and now-Cong GMA all trouncing their rivals by over 100,000 votes; Cong Anna York Bondoc-Sagum's 2007 margin of 82,000 votes over Rene Maglanque halved to some 40,000 this time around. Still a landslide there.

City of San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez may not have won by a loong mile as I forecast, but neither by a nose was his victory over Tiger Lagman with his margin of over 15,000 votes.

Combine all the votes of his rivals, Boking Morales with his 35,080 votes would still emerge triumphant in Mabalacat.

True enough, a proclamation, not an election, Mayor Eddie Guerrero waited for in Floridablanca.

As written here, so it was: a *banya* for Sta. Rita Mayor Yolly Pineda

From oblivion came the other candidates for the Guagua mayorship, returned to oblivion they did with Mayor Ric Rivera re-elected.

As it was in Sta. Ana – Mayor Omeng Concepcion a shoo-in, so it was too in Arayat – Mayor Chito Espino reprising his victory in 2007.

## Flawed forecast

A MONKEY I made of myself with some of the forecasts of "sure winners" I came out with on Monday, Election Day, here.

Yeah, I had a diet of crow with my predictions in six towns.

Lyndon Cunanan I wrote was it in Magalang. He got as far as third and last with incumbent Romy Pecson getting his undisputed re-election.

Josefina Leoncio upset Nardo Velasco in Sasmuan by a margin of 365 votes.

Ron Dungca lost to Jomar Hizon in Bacolor.

Peter Flores got re-elected in Masantol with Jay Bustos crying "massive cheating."

Nobody really got wronged in San Simon with Leonor Wong way over the predicted Baby Dalisay who ranked third.

The Flores dynasty I wrote about in Minalin cut abruptly by once loser Katoy Naguit.

Still I would say though that I made good with my forecast overall.

I wrote "landslide for Nanay." So a landslide it was for Lilia "Nanay Baby" Pineda.

In Candaba, Mayor Jerry Pelayo reduced his opponents to what we farm boys used to warble; "Ando baco, buntuc paro."

Again, as predicted: In Apalit, it's *balik-munisipyo* for Mayor Jun Tetangco.

Yes, the Flores grip in Macabebe continues with Annie Flores-Balgan taking over from big brother Bobong.

Yes, Mayor Lito Naguit is still it – by a landslide – in my hometown of Sto. Tomas.

Yes, it's Carling de la Cruz in Porac, as I bravely ventured.

Surprise, surprise, a most pleasant surprise.

An even match I said of the Angeles City mayoralty contest, tilted to Ed Pamintuan's favor with the Iglesia ni Cristo votes. Was I happily wrong! Mayor Blueboy Nepomuceno turned black and blue by EdPam's margin of 26,179 votes.

Correct in predicting the outcome of the governorship, in the four congressional districts, in the two cities and in 14 towns. Wrong in six. That makes a batting average of 77 percent. Really good with political forecasting.

Maybe I am in the wrong racket. I may just do better with crystal balls and tarot cards inside a carnival tent.

## Forgotten heroes

THERE IS a group of winners whose heroics were sadly overshadowed by the May 10 elections. I'm talking about the superstars aptly called "mothers" – breastfeeding mothers, in particular.

Although it seems odd for a man to write about breastfeeding moms, allow me this once to pay tribute to them, as a way of greeting them, albeit belatedly, on the special day set aside for mothers last May 9.

Well, let's just say I am a self-styled expert on the subject of breastfeeding, after having had a personal experience of seeing my five kids nurse on Liza. (Guys, count me out in the "personal experience" thing. I know what you are thinking.)

I don't know about daddies whose babies were fed with infant formula, but I never experienced waking up in the wee hours of the morning, eyes half closed, just to prepare *dede*. When any of our babies whimpered, Liza just had to lie on her side while the baby snuggled and expertly searched for the bull's eye in the dark of the night. Boy, did they have super-sensitive sensors! On the other side of the bed, all I had to do was... snore.

Because all my babies were breastfed, I didn't have to worry a thing about IQ or EQ or whatever Q milk companies invented. Wonder of wonders, when my babies started growing up, they openly exhibited chunks of intelligence, thanks to my brainy genes... er, the amazing nutri-

ents inherent in breast milk.

There was a time when expired or adulterated infant formulas in grocery shelves became a big issue. Not to me. Liza's milk never spoils, at least for a good two years. Did not a famous TV ad put it so well – "Breast milk is good for babies up to two years?"

More than all these, however, I experienced the beyond-words bonding that developed between Liza and our children. Imagine this tender scenario: while Liza nursed the baby, the baby's five tiny fingers grasped Liza's pointing finger, while the baby's other hand reached to feel the tenderness of the bosom that gives life. A heartwarming sight, to say the least.

Liza's professional career? Well, she had to painfully give it up in the meantime. My wife often tells me there is an ongoing struggle inside her, a constant tug-o-war between self and family. But, one thing sure, I saw in Liza the desire to make a noble career out of motherhood, not only to allow the body to realize its tremendous capacity to nurture, but more so to show to our children what sacrificial love means, in a very concrete way.

And, get this. Liza nurtured, not once, but five times over. If only for that, I think I have a hundred and one reasons to love her more now than when I married her 15 years ago. Charge it to breastfeeding and motherhood.

On this note, let me pay a



## The Blue-Sky Scenario

Atty. Bong Roque

fitting tribute to all breastfeeding mothers. Make a curtsy, moms! You have made a resounding "Yes" to a divine calling, which makes you are a rare, holy breed.

So, as my little way of greeting you a belated "Happy Mother's Day," I offer you a toast... a glass of milk.

Cheers!

□ □ □

**Quote for the week:**  
"There are three reasons for breast-feeding: the milk is always at the right temperature; it comes in attractive containers; and the cat can't get it."  
~Irena Chalmers



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## The Gossip-miller

by Cesar Pambid

# Pamilya Revilla bongga'ng tagumpay sa pulitika

MAY PANAHONG minalas sa pulitika ang mga Revilla. Anong taon na nga ba parehong natalo sina Bong Revilla at Lani Mercado. That was the time na lagi pa silang binibiro sa linyang, Talo si Mister, Talo si Misis. But that was long ago.

Humarap sa press ang anak ng mag-asawa na si Jolo Revilla with a very victorious ang aura.

Ang saya-saya niya all throughout at tila walang kapaguran sa pagsagot sa mga katanungan ng press at pagpapasalamat sa tuwing may nagko-congratulate sa kanya.

Paano nga ba namang hindi magiging masaya si Jolo gayung humataw ngayong eleksyon ang kanyang mga magulang na sina Sen. Bong Revilla at Lani Mercado, pati na ang kanyang tito na si Stryke Revilla.

As we all know, No. 1 si Sen. Bong sa senatorial race at si Lani naman, landslide victory bilang congresswoman sa Bacoor, Cavite, habang si Stryke ay nanalo ring mayor ng Bacoor.

Isa si Jolo sa malaki ang hirap sa pagtulong sa mga magulang nitong nakaraang kampanya kaya naman sobra-sobrang pasasalamat niya na nagbunga ang lahat ng kanilang pinaghirapan at super thankful siya sa lahat ng taong sumuporta at bumoto sa kapamilya niya.

Jolo revealed na ngayong tapos na ang eleksyon, balak munang magpahinga ng kanyang pamilya.

Pupunta raw ng States ang mga magulang niya kasama ang lahat ng mga kapatid niya, maliban sa kanya.

"Lahat sila, aalis, ako lang ang hindi makakasama. May trabaho pa kasi tayo, eh. Pero okay lang kasi trabaho naman," say ni Jolo.

Nagti-taping na kasi siya ng Kapitan Inngo, Kumakain ng Bala, bagong series niya ng Agimat matapos ang successful Pepeng Agimat, kaya naman hindi raw siya talaga puwedeng umalis.

Nanghihinayang nga si Jolo dahil kasama rin sa U.S. ang anak niyang si Gab, pero no choice siya kundi magpaiwan.

Pinayagan naman daw ng nanay ng bata na si Grace Adriano ang kanilang anak na sumama at ipagpapaalam pa raw sa lolang si Rosanna Roces and hopefully, pumayag daw ito.

Anyway, excited si Jolo sa Kapitan Inngo at wish niya na maging mataas din ang ratings nito tulad ng Pepeng Agimat.

Ayaw pa niyang sbaihin kung sino ang leading lady niya pero siyempre, okay daw sa kanya kung si Melissa Ricks ulit ang makakapareha dahil naging okay naman ang tandem nila sa Pepeng Agimat.

Mauuna ang Elias Paniki ni Jake Cuenca na iere pagkatapos ng Tonyong Bayawak ni Coco Martin bago ang Kapitan Inngo ni Jolo.

## Sexbomb binuwag, pero binuo ni Joy ang Daisies

MATAGAL NA pinaikot-ikot ang isyung pagbuwag sa Sexbomb, dahil lagi naman itong kinokontara at dine-deny.

Pero ngayonb, mismong ang manager ng Sexbomb Girls na si kaibigang Joy Cancio ang nagkumpirma na iniwan na ni Jopay Paguia ang dance group para mag-concentrate na lang sa pagne-negosyo.

Habang si Evette Pabalan ay gustong mag-solo na lang.

"Gusto mag-try ni Evette na baka naman palarin din siya kapag nagsolo na siya. Hindi ko naman maipagkakait na subukan nila ang magsolo sa labas ng management ko dahil nakilala silang grupo.

"Basta from the start, ang layunin ko ay mabigyan sila ng trabaho at reward na lang sa amin ang pagsikat ng Sexbomb dahil sa sipag na ginawa naming pare-pareho. At sana marating niya ang tagumpay na hinahanap niya," paliwanag ni Joy.

Bukod kay Jopay, out na rin si Shane Gonzalez na ang paalam kay Joy ay ipagpapatuloy ang pag-aaral.

Habang nag-decide naman ang Focus E na hindi na i-renew sina Jackie Rivas at Cynthia Yapchingco.

Kung ano man ang dahilan ay hindi na nabanggit ni Joy.

Naging reason naman daw ng pag-alis sa Sexbomb ni Danielle Ramirez ay dahil unfair daw si Joy sa pagma-manage sa mga ito, na mariing itinanggi ni Joy.

"Trabaho po ang pangako sa kanila, hindi ang pagsikat. Ang alam ko, ang pagsikat ay bunga ng pagsisipag. Our God's will po kumbaga.

"Malungkot ang mawala sila pero may mga sarili kasi na silang buhay kaya okey naman po sa amin 'yun. Ang maganda ay nagpaalam sila nang maayos. At masaya naman ako dahil may mga bago din naman pumalit tulad ng 17-anyos na si Jomarie Gutierrez at si Jaja Barro, 16-years-old.

"May boses si Jaja at kasama sa grupong binuo ko na DAISIES with Louise Bolton, Myka Bautista, Cheche Tolentino at Jomarie Gutierrez para sa carrier single nila na Take One under Sony Music," kuwento pa ni Joy.

Magkakaroon sila ng mall tour sa Robinson's Metro East activity center on May 15 para sa kanilang "Let's Get Aww Summer Workshop Recital."

Makakasama ng Daisies ang Danz Focus, si Julian Trono, at Sexbomb girls with Rochelle Pangilinan na magsisimula sa alas-3 ng hapon.

On May 23, nasa Robinson's Novaliches sila, sa May 30 sa Robinson's Angeles, Pampanga at makakasama nila ang ilang stars ng Daisy Siete's Adam or Eve.

## Willie Revillame tuloy ang kamalasan

PINAKAHINDI magandang biro kay Willie Revillame yung ginagawa ni Joey De Leon sa Eat Bulaga tungkol sa pagiging hindi nito pagiging effective endorser. Laman ng mga biro ni Joey yung pagsablay ni Willie dahil natalo nga si Manny Villar.

Hindi pa sumasagot ni Willie kaya inaasahang higit ang anghang ng kanyang balikwas pagbalik niya sa Wowowee.

That is kung pabalikin pa ba siya ng management now that may isyung mismong management na ang tumututol sa kanyang pagbabalik sa noontime show.

Marami na ang nagtatanong sa amin kung totoo raw ba na hindi na babalik si Willie Revillame sa show niyang Wowowee lalo't talo ang manok niyang kumandidato sa pagka-Pangulo na si Senator Manny Villar.

Dapat daw kasing panindigan nito ang binitiwang salita na kung hindi paalisin si Jobert Sucaldito sa Dos, siya ang aalis sa naturang network. Ito na raw ang pagkakataon na patunayan ni Willie na mayroon siyang isang salita.

Pero sa isang banda, dapat din sigurong unawain ng viewers si Willie na ito ay tao rin na hindi perpekto at nagkakamali rin.

Anyway, marami ang nag-aabang sa gagawin ni Willie. Kung ito raw ba ay aalis na nang tuluyan sa kanyang show o nagpapalamig pa dahil sa pagod na inabot sa pangangampanya para kay Sen. Villar, na sad to say ay natalo ni Noynoy Aquino.

Teka, ano naman kaya ang maging reaction ni Kris Aquino sa sinabi umano ni Willie Revillame na: "Bakit ako aalis sa Dos? Bakit Lopez ba ang apelyido niya?"

Totoo ba ito o gawa-gawa lang ng mga taong talagang naasar na sa kayabangan daw ni Willie at pati sila ni Kris ay gustong pag-awayin?

Grabe ang "batikos" kay Willie sa social networking sites.

Ayaw na siyang pabalikin sa Wowowee dahil sa naging attitude niya kay Jobert Sucaldito na 'pag hindi tinanggal sa ABS-CBN, siya ang magre-resign.

Sayang. Sana, kung meron lang isang kaibigan si Willie who will explain to him na "you don't bite the hands that feed you," eh, mare-realize niya kung ano ang mga pagkakamali niya.

Hindi sapat 'yung talented ka, magaling ka, love ka ng mga advertiser, eh, susi na 'yon para "magmalaki" ka na o mag-inarte.

Kahit talented ka, kung hindi ka naman marunong makipagkapuwa-tao o hindi ka marunong magpasalamat sa mga nagbibigay ng biyaya sa 'yo, balewala rin 'yon.

Magkano ba kinikita ni Willie sa loob ng isang buwan? P30 million? Dahil lang sa Wowowee?

Juice ko, saang kamay ng Diyos mo kukunin ang halagang 'yan?

Nobody is indispensable in this business. 'Pag pinakawalan mo ang oportunidad dahil lang sa kaartehan mo o taas ng tingin mo sa sarili mo, magtatampo ang grasya sa 'yo.

Ang dinig namin, gusto nang bumalik ni Willie, pero wala pang "go signal" ang management ng ABS-CBN. Ngayong hindi pinalad maging presidente si Sen. Manny Villar na inendorso ni Willie, ayaw naming isipin, pero baka ibintang sa TV host-comedian kung bakit hindi ito nanalo.

'Wag naman sana.

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# 'Holy Land' theme park to rise in Subic

By MALOU DUNGOG

## Infomax reporters harassed in Macabebe on Election Day

By JOEY PAVIA

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – “We don't need an Ampatuan in Pampanga.”

Thus said the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)-Pampanga Chapter as it condemned the alleged harassment on two television reporters based here by a village chief in Macabebe, Pampanga on May 10.

NUJP-Pampanga Chairman Ashley Manabat said television

reporter Patricia Mamangun and cameraman Glendy Sembrano of Infomax 8 recounted their “terrifying experience” to him when they tried to check on the situation of the May 10 elections at a voting center in Barangay Batasan at about 3:30 p.m.

Batasan Barangay Captain Gang Flores and his people reportedly harassed Mamangun and Sembrano when they tried to get video footages of the election at the Batasan Elementary School.

“The NUJP condemns the reported harassment of Infomax reporter Patricia Mamangun and her cameraman on Election Day by Barangay Captain Gang Flores of Batasan, Macabebe, Pampanga. Mamangun and her cameraman were prevented by a group of men led by Flores from covering the conduct of the elections in Barangay Batasan at around 3:30 pm,” said Manabat in a statement.

“Mamangun and Sembrano, who were wearing Comelec media accredited IDs, were shoved by Flores who was shouting invectives and the camera pushed away after they tried to take footages of sample ballots inside the suspiciously near vacant Batasan Elementary School in the said town. Mamangun and her cameraman managed to get away from the ensuing commotion and fortunately emerged unhurt from the said incident,” he added.

Mamangun said they reported the incident to Macabebe town police Chief Insp. Angeli-to Esteban shortly after it happened.

Manabat was a guest at the Infomax 8 Election Day program and he was able to interview Mamangun after she and Sembrano arrived at their station.



Mamangun (left) tells her ordeal to Manabat (right) and Infomax 8 General Manager Mau Aquino. PHOTO BY JOEY PAVIA

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A non-stock, non-profit organization will be building in this free port a religious theme park, the first of its kind in Asia.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) administrator Armand Arreza said the SBMA board of directors has approved the project proposal of Holy Land Subic Foundation Inc. for the development of the “Holy Land” theme park at a 20-hectare land adjacent to the Subic-Tipo security plaza.

The approved project will offer “a new Jerusalem experience, right here in Central Luzon,” Arreza said.

“With Holy Land Subic, the free port will serve not only as an eco-tourism and recreation center, but also as a place for pilgrimage and spiritual rejuvenation,” he added.

Arreza also pointed out that like the other theme parks in Subic Bay, Holy Land Subic will bank on the inherent advantages of the free port by land, sea and air.

“The free port's security is one of the best in the country, and the well-preserved environs create a relaxing mood that is fit for a tourist facility,” he added.

According to Maribi Garcia, founder of the Bethesda Healing Ministry, the theme park will be divided into a rest and recreation center and a prayer and reflection sanctuary.

Among the attractions to be offered by Holy Land Subic are: a “Bible Museum”, an amphitheater for various spiritual productions, and a separate theater for children called ‘Noah's Ark and Jonah and the Whale’, where cartoon shows, storytelling, and puppet shows will be held.

Garcia also said that a ‘David and Goliath’ rock-climbing course, and a ‘Trip to Heaven’ obstacle run, will be set up for teenagers and young adults.

Meanwhile, replica models depicting biblical stories will be built all over the place, like ‘Moses and the Ten Commandments in Mount Sinai’, a ‘Tower of Babel’, as well as sculptures portraying Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Aside from these, a temple for prayer and worship, a chapel, and a healing and wellness center will also rise in the site.

Garcia said that Holy Land Subic will train Aetas to serve as forest rangers, jungle guides, and foot massage therapists, among others.

Groundbreaking rites for the Holy Land Subic project is expected to be held in June.

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