

Angeles City named CL's Gawad Kalasag Awardee

ANGELES CITY – The city government here under the leadership of Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan has been adjudged anew as the Regional Best Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) for the 2019 Gawad Kalasag Awards.

Angeles City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (ACDRRMO) Chief Francis Pangilinan said that the fete was confirmed by Office of Civil Defense – Region III (OCD-R3) Director Marlou Salazar through a communication letter.

The City of Angeles was named as the winner under the highly-urbanized city category. The Province of Pampanga and the City of San Fernando also won big under the provincial and component city categories, respectively.

Pangilinan expressed his elation over the outcome of the validation saying that “the efforts of equipping and developing the capacity and skills of each community and schools in the city to ef-

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Investigate poll winners in narco-list

BY DING CERVANTES

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Sen. Richard Gordon urged a probe into 26 of the 47 politicians on the 'narco-list' who won in the recent mid-term elections.

The winners ran for various posts despite

their inclusion in Pres. Duterte's narco-list, amid reports of “massive, flagrant and scandalous vote-buying in their areas.”

“An extensive investigation should be conducted by different agencies such as the Commission on Elections,

the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the National Bureau of Investigations and the Philippine National Police,” Gordon said in a statement.

This, after PNP chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde said some of the winning

“narco-politicians” were elected mayor and governor.

Of the 47 local politicians included in the narco-list, 37 sought local government posts while 27 won, he said, adding that the winners included those in Central Luzon

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LAZATIN TO TEAM: Probe alleged ONA neglected patient

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA – Angeles City Mayor-Elect Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. on May 23, 2019 met with Ospital Ning Angeles (ONA) Director Dr. Rodel Dungca to call for an investigation of an incident at the hospital involving the alleged neglect of a patient.

On a social media post published today, Joy Antalan, mother of the said patient, condemned the alleged neglect they had suffered on the evening of May 22, 2019 when her child was brought to ONA due to a painful ear.

Antalan wrote that not only was her son not given medical attention, the nurse on duty allegedly got angry at them and told them to just bring the child to another hospital.

Having been made aware of the incident, Lazatin immediately met with Dr. Dungca of ONA to discuss the incident and request that an investigation be conducted within 48 hours to ascertain what happened.

According to Lazatin
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Pogi wants health, ONA prioritized

BY ASHLEY MANABAT



Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan' yields 56 farmer graduates in Angeles City

56 FARMERS including 4P's from different Barangays in Angeles City and Mabalacat City completed the 12-week Training Program of SM Foundation's Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan, which was administered by Harbest Agribusiness, SM Foundation's project partner. A harvest festival preceded the graduation rites at Barangay Cutud, Villa Remedios in Angeles City. After the harvest, the farmers had an hour tour around

SM Hypermarket to observe the operations and product presentation of fruits and vegetables in case they decided to be one SM's suppliers.

Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan is a 12-step program that teaches farmers seed culture and propagation, irrigation and fertilizer application, effective backyard planting and small-scale farming techniques for fruits and vegetables with the cultivation of

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CLARK FREEPORT – “Our first order of business is to overhaul the health care system and the Ospital Ning Angeles (ONA) which have been neglected.”

Thus, said incoming mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. during the “News@Hues” media forum organized by the Pampanga Press Club in cooperation with Park Inn Hotel By Radisson Clark on Tuesday.

“Nakita po natin ang estado ng hospital kung gaano po kasama. Yan po ang unang reklamao ng ating mga kababayan sa lungsod ng Angeles (We saw for ourselves

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Lazatin

CSE, NHCP call for respect, value to PH flag

THE CITY Government of San Fernando and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) have called on the community to give respect and value to the Philippine Flag.

This call was made both for the public and private sectors during the Seminar on Flag and Heraldic Code of the

Philippines on May 21, 2019 at Heroes Hall.

The event was in time for the celebration of the National Heritage Month and the forthcoming National Flag Day.

This activity, organized by the City Tourism Office, aimed to enlighten government employees, teachers and stu-

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HDO sought vs. suspects in killing of Subic bizman

BY DING CERVANTES

ANGELES CITY -- The panel of prosecutors handling the murder of Subic freeport businessman Dominic Sytin, whose brother was tagged as mastermind in his fatal shooting last year, asked last Tuesday the court here to direct the Bureau of Immigration to issue a "precautionary hold departure order (PHDO)" against the suspects in the case.

In a petition, the prosecutors asked the Regional Trial Court Branch 57 here to "direct the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (sic) to hold and prevent the departure of respon-

dents Mr. Alan Dennis L. Sytin and Mr. Oliver D. Fuentes a.k.a Ryan Rementilla at any Philippine Airport or ports and to include their names in the Hold Departure List of the said office."

The two are facing charges of murder and frustrated murder in the court here.

Dennis Sytin is a brother of the slain businessman Dominic Sytin who was fatally shot on Nov. 28 last year in front of the Light House Hotel in the Subic Freeport Zone. His bodyguard Efren Espartero Jr was wounded.

The Sytin brothers reportedly had a "corporate dispute" over shares in their company, United Auctioneers

Inc., police earlier said. On 15 November, Dominic removed Dennis from the company and prevented him from entering the company building. He also fired Fuentes for alleged anomalies.

Lawmen arrested in Batangas last March the suspected hired gunman Edgardo Luib, but on the bases of existing arrest warrants over murder cases he is facing, including the killing of journalist Mae Magsino and municipal councilor Michael Caringal of Bauan, Batangas. He implicated Dennis in the murder of Dominic, with Fuentes as the contact person between them.

The PHDO petition was filed by

the panel of prosecutors led by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera, based on the motion of complainant, Dominic's wife Ann Marietta Sytin.

The complaint against Dennis and Fuentes has remained a "subject of preliminary investigation" by the prosecutors.

In the referral letter to the Department of Justice, Olongapo City Police Station officer-in-charge Capt. Ailyn Rosario said Luib issued an extra-judicial confession which detailed his participation in the killing of Dominic and the wounding of the latter's bodyguard.

Philmech urged to upscale farm mechanization

BY ARMAND GALANG

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, Nueva Ecija - Reelected Sen. Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, urged Philmech to upscale support to farmers by providing farm machineries.

Villar, who was keynote speaker during the Philmech 41st anniversary celebration here on Tuesday, said mechanization is vital in empowering farmers amid liberalization in agriculture.

Studies showed, according to the senator, that labor is the biggest chunk, in the production cost of farmers.

"Yan ang mission natin, na kailangan e i-empower nila yung mga farmer sa Pilipinas by giving them machineries and teaching them how to use it, how to maintain it," Villar said in an interview after the event.

She stressed Philmech is one of the agencies specifically stated in the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law that provides a

P10-billion Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

Aside from mechanization, Villar stressed the need to encourage farmers to use inbred rice which the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), also based in this city, produces.

She warned the Department of Agriculture (DA) against using RCEF allocation in purchasing hybrid rice seeds.

"Pwede nilang gamitin yung P7-billion nila pero hindi ang RCEF," she said.

As yet another form of support, she asked the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to use its P28-billion conditional cash transfer fund (CCT), popularly known as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), in procuring locally produced rice.

"Kumausap sila ng mga kooperatiba ng farmers doon sila bumili and then doon din i-distribute sa lugar na where the cooperatives are," she said.



Re-elected Senator Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture and good, poses with Philmech officials after keynoting its 41st anniversary on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY ARMAND GALANG

Half a million worth of shabu seized in Olongapo buy bust operation

BY JOHNNY R. REBLANDO

OLONGAPO CITY - Close to half a million pesos worth of shabu was confiscated by operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the

city police in a buy bust operation in Barangay New Cabalan in this city.

City Director, Col. Benjamin Sembrano, identified the suspects as Marlow Estrella y Baturan, 39, presently residing at Purok 3, Santol Street, New Caba-

lan and Erma Barazar y Amir, 33, and a resident of Purok A Mactan, Barangay Old Cabalan both in this city.

The suspects were nabbed by the operatives headed by Police Lt. George Francis B. Molina after selling sha-

bu worth P4,500 to a police poseur-buyer.

Recovered from suspects' possession were another 14 pieces of heat sealed transparent plastic sachets with a medium size transparent plastic all containing suspected shabu having

a total combined weight of 175 grams with an estimated street value of P500, 000 and mark money amounting to P4,500.

Both suspects were placed behind bars at the Police Station 1 detention cell.

Central warehouse ng isang supermart at isang bahay nasunog

BY ERNIE B. ESCONDE

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan -- Natupok ang central warehouse ng isang mall at trading company at nadamay ang isang bahay dito bago maghatinggabi ng Martes.

"Ang nakita ko lang umapoy ang central warehouse," sabi ni

Emilo Macale, security guard ng Vercon Supermart & Trading.

Ang malaking warehouse ang imbakan ng groceries, construction materials at ibang mga supplies ng Vercon.

Nasunog din ang isang bahay na katabi ng warehouse.

Ayon kay Fire Senior Inspector Edwin dela Fuente, Dinalu-

pihan fire marshall, tumanggap sila ng tawag na may sunog 11:15 ng gabi ng Martes at agad silang nagresponde.

Sa tulong, aniya, ng 10 firetrucks, nalagay sa under control ang sunog 1:30 ng madaling-araw ng Miyerkules. Ang mga firetrucks ay mula Olongapo City, Subic Bay Metropol-

itan Authority at sa mga bayan ng Hermosa, Orani at Limay sa Bataan bukod sa Dinalupihan.

Wala naman umanong nasaktan.

Sinabi ng fire marshall na iniimbestigahan pa at patuloy pang inalam kung ano pinagmulan ng apoy at kung magkano ang pinsalang iniwan nito.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and
Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Regional Office No. III
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Application for Extension of Validity of a
Certificate of Public Convenience to operate
a PUJ service. R-EV-PJ-2019-e-98-03609

FEDERICO GUINTO
/Applicant

NOTICE OF HEARING
Applicant is a grantee of a Certificate of
Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service
for the transportation of passengers and freight
on the route ANGELES CITY-PANDACAQUI
(Mexico) and vice versa with the use of one (1)
unit/s, which certificate is valid up to May 12,
2019. In the application filed on May 8, 2019.
Applicant request for the Extension of Validity of
said Certificate with the use of the same number
of unit authorized.

NOTICE is hereby given that this Application
will be heard by this Board on June 4, 2019 at
9:00 A.M. at its Office at the above address.

Applicant is hereby ordered to publish this
Notice at least FIVE (5) days before the above
date of hearing once in a newspaper of general
circulation in REGION III.

Parties opposed to the granting of the
Application must file their written oppositions
supported by documentary evidence on or
before the above date, copy of the same be
furnished to the applicant, and may if they so
desire appear on the said date and time.

This application will be acted upon by this
Board on the basis of the records of this case
submitted by the parties, unless the Board
deems it necessary to receive additional
documentary evidence for the judicious
resolution of the same.

WITNESS the Honorable AHMED G.
CUIZON, Regional Director this 9th day
of May 2019 in the City of San Fernando,
Pampanga.

Atty. THERESA B. MAGTOTO
Chief Transportation Development Officer
Hearing Officer

PUNTO! Central Luzon: May 23, 2019

NBI, professional-hospital associations rally behind PhilHealth's drive

THE ANTI-FRAUD campaign launched by Dr. Roy Ferrer, acting president of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is gaining momentum bolstered by the expressed support of investigative agencies, enforcers, professional groups and hospital associations.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Hospital Association (PHA), and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) have thrown their support for PhilHealth's campaign against malpractices and violations that are defrauding government of its funds and resources.

The growing base of support for PhilHealth

is prompted by people's perception that the Acting PhilHealth President has "shown his grit and determination to stamp out health insurance fraud," said one physician who belongs to the PMA. This is specially true, he noted, "since PhilHealth has succeeded in identifying violators, prosecuting them and are meted penalties."

The NBI has made its investigative skills and facilities available to PhilHealth to catch wrongdoers, produce evidence of fraud, and assist prosecutors to buttress their cases against violators.

The PMA, the countrywide association of medical doctors, has pledged its support for PhilHealth, vowing to apply peer pressure against

practitioners "who take the low road of deception and crime." "Ours is an intelligence network that can easily spot our fellow practitioners if they make false medical claims, fabricate forms and documents, and submit multiple claims for one disease, a PMA official said.

"We are ashamed of hospitals which betray the trust of PhilHealth when they engage in fraudulent acts," said an official of PHA, who added that their association will not hesitate taking out these unethical hospitals from their membership roll. There have been cases of hospitals which connived with doctors to submit false claims – just so to make money.

The PRC, the regu-

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lator and licensing body for all professionals, said it is ready to suspend the licenses of unscrupulous medical doctors and participating nurses if evidence would show that they engaged in fraudulent activities, said a PRC official. "It is always good to cleanse our professional ranks of unethical and abusive peers," he added.

Dr. Ferrer, visibly elated by this pervasive show of support, declared that PhilHealth will be able to put an end to this health insurance fraud "faster than expected" due to the support of public and private agencies. "I am vindicat-

ed and reassured that our courageous effort to frontally face the problem has drawn support from well-meaning public and private groups," he beamed.

The broadening support for PhilHealth has augured well for the early success of the anti-fraud campaign, and has reassured the hundred million PhilHealth members that the collective PhilHealth Fund will remain solid and robust. It will be recalled that PhilHealth ended 2018 with 11.6 billion in net income.

PhilHealth's financial health is further bolstered by the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law

which would raise premium contributions from PhilHealth members, national government subsidies, and shares from such government agencies like the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes (PCSO).

With these developments, Dr. Ferrer has rallied his PhilHealth "army" to be "very vigilant and aggressive" in bringing this anti-fraud campaign to a suitable conclusion: "Make fraud a thing of the past, and enable PhilHealth to focus on its mandate to help patients in confinement and in disease treatment. —PR

CSF fetes Palarong Pambansa medalists

YOUNG FERNANDINO athletes who bagged medals in the recent Palarong Pambansa 2019 were recognized by the City Government of San Fernando, headed by Mayor Edwin "EdSa" Santiago, on May 20's flag raising ceremony at City Hall.

These athletes were members of the CSFP Knights who competed against different young athletes all over the country in the multi-sports event hosted annually by the Department of Education (DepEd).

Alfredo Pineda, Jr. of Northville Ele-

mentary School led the roster of medalists from this capital city, bagging three medals for Athletics Elementary Boys (EB) category: gold for 200-m; silver for 400-m; and bronze for 100-m.

Mark Eledir David was another Fernandino gold medalist for Taekwondo Secondary Boys (SB) category. David comes from University of the Assumption Junior High School.

Other Fernandino victors in the Palarong Pambansa 2019 include:

- Martin Pangilinan of San Fernando Elementary School (Bronze medal-

ist, Basketball EB)

- Reuben Yuan Sigua of St. Scholastica's Academy (Bronze medalist, Basketball EB)

- Benedict Buluran of Camp Olivas Elementary School (Bronze medalist, 200-m Athletics EB)

- John Mhyr Castillo of Camp Olivas Elementary School (Bronze medalist, 4x100-m relay, Athletics EB)

- Lovely Joy Cordovilla of St. Nicolas College of Business and Technology (Bronze medalist, 3000-m Athletics Secondary Girls)

- MJ Jaminillo and Howell Mapa of Lyndale Academy and Michael Batalona of St. Nicolas College of Business and Technology (Bronze medalists, 4x100-m relay, Athletics SB).

This year's CSF representatives were handled by Sports Consultant Alphonso Trece Academia, Coach Earl Andrei Marin, and Division Schools Sports Officer Felino Sawal.

Anchored on the theme, "Shaping the future through Sports," Palarong Pambansa 2019 was held on April 27-May 4 in Davao City. —CSFP-CIO



HEIRLOOM RECIPE. Chef Atsing Lilian Borromeo (center) presents giant "puto San Nicolas" she baked during the culinary demo, with her are DOT-3 director Carolina Uy, SM-Pampanga mall manager Aaron Montenegro, San Fernando city tourism officer Ching Pangilinan and other chefs who participated in the event. **PHOTOS BY BONG LACSON**

Gunman kills barangay captain in NE

BY ARMAND GALANG

showed.

PALAYAN CITY - A village head was killed by a lone gunman inside his residence in Barangay Ganaderia here at about 9 am Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Beato Pascua, 54, who was elected unopposed in the said village last year.

Witnesses said Pascua was inside the house when a man wearing a face mask called him and greeted him good morning.

"Magandang umaga po kapitan," the man was quoted as saying.

The man, however, fired a 9mm pistol as he emerged from the terrace.

The suspect fled on board a single motorcycle, investigation

showed. Relatives rushed Pascua to a nearby hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

Forensic investigators recovered three spent shells from a 9mm caliber pistol.

The victim's wife, Marcrina, could not think of any other possible motive behind the attack other than politics.

"Alam kong yung asawa ko e wala naman siyang kaaway, alam kong mabait siya kahit tanung niyo sa iba. Wala siyang kaaway," a sobbing Marcrina said as she called for justice.

"Bakit ganoon ang ginawa? Sabi ko nga wala naman siyang kaaway kung sa mga personal talaga pung wala," Marcrina, a public school teacher, said.

Editorial

Threat to security

FORMER OMBUDSMAN Conchita Carpio Morales was barred entry to Hong Kong Tuesday for allegedly being a security threat.

"...But how can a 78-year-old former anticorruption official, with a pristine 52-year publicservicerecord, beasecuritythreatorriskto them?" asked her lawyer Anne Marie Corominas the question that really begged to be asked. Though allowed entry after four hours in detention, Morales declined and opted to return to Manila.

"That was bullying." So declared Morales upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. "If it's not bullying, how will you call it? I think someone came up with the theory [of] shock and awe. But I wasn't shocked and I wasn't awed. I was just angry."

Adding that the experience has not changed her position any in her stand against Chinese "atrocious actions" in the West Philippine Sea which she raised at the International Criminal Court.

Morales' plight brings to mind that of another septuagenarian lady, but on Philippine soil.

Sister Patricia Fox, 71, who spent almost three decades of mission work in the country was branded a "national security threat," stripped of her missionary visa, and ultimately ordered to leave the Philippines.

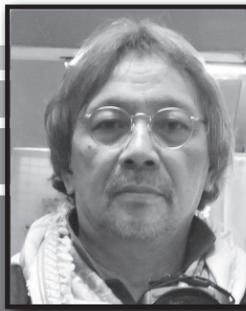
She was badmouthed, to say the least, by President Duterte himself, apparently piqued by her participation in a fact-finding mission to investigate alleged abuses against farmers, including killings and evictions by soldiers fighting guerrillas in Mindanao.

"The big challenge now is not to lose hope, to know that if we all move together, we can bring about change," the Australian nun said upon arrival in her home country.

Furthered she: "Pope Francis said that if you're a Christian and there's massive human rights violations... you should take action, make noise. Where the oppressed are, the church people should be there, not only always talking but with them and hopefully more vocal."

Fox. Morales. On the side of rightness, exemplars of courage.

Yes, the vassal and his patron could only resort to bullying, in mortal fear of them.



acaesar.blogspot.com

Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Opinion

So, where's the Virgin?

THE DOWNTOWN streets of the City of San Fernando were filled with solemnity, beauty, and elegance as the capital city staged the annual Flores De Mayo on May 18 in line with the celebration of Pyestang Fernandino 2019.

Flores de Mayo, a Catholic tradition of giving honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary through flower offering, was successfully carried out as the candidates of this year's Mutya at Lakaning San Fernando participated by wearing Filipiniana gowns and "barong tagalog."

Also, the candidates for this year's Little Miss Fernandina and selected senior citizens from different villages in the city joined the said activity.

Meanwhile, Binibining Pilipinas Globe 2018 Michelle Gumabao, graced this year's Flores De Mayo as the Reyna de las Flores or Queen of Flowers...

SO WAS captioned a series of photos from the city information office that found publication in a number of print and online outlets here, *Punto!* online included.

I searched through the cache of pictures but found none with but the minutest image of the Blessed Virgin, the very reason for the sacred celebration.

Absent the Virgin, if only in image, the solemnity, aye, the sanctity inhering in these religious rites readily devolve to sheer spectacle of worldly beauty.

It was over ten years ago that I was struck with this reduction, okay, secularization of the Flores de Mayo to a virtual showcase of fashion and display of beauty. **Thoroughly "deVirginized," in fact, and therefore losing whatever spiritually meritorious, and assuming everything meretricious.**

So, who can still remember the essential Flores de Mayo that children of my generation took in all solemnity, in all the innocence of age, of grace?

Recall how... Catechetical instructions started right after Labor Day. The first lessons: the sign of the cross and its meaning, the mystery of the One True God in Three Persons.

(Always the caveat: The Holy Trinity is a mystery of faith one cannot question. Not even the great Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine, unraveled it. Once Augustine was by the seashore wracking his brains over the mystery. He chanced upon a child cupping water with his hands and pouring it to a hole on the beach. What are you doing? Augustine asked. Transferring the water of the sea to this hole, the child replied. That's impossible, Augustine was supposed to have remarked. More impossible is to find human explanation to what you are thinking about, the child retorted.)

Three weeks after – through the Our Father-Hail Mary-Glory Be, the Apostles' Creed and the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, *Salve Regina* and the Angelus, the Mass, the Ten Commandments, sins – cardinal, mortal, and venial, and the Act of Contrition – came one's first trip to the curtained box by the entrance of the church to pass the penitential rite.

The day that followed – always a Sunday –

in immaculate white, down to the shoes, one skipped breakfast in order to prepare one's body for the entry of the mystical Body of Christ on his first holy communion.

But not before one, along with all the other first communicants, lined up, flower in hand, singing *Indung Alang Musing* (Immaculate Mother) to take his turn at offering the blooms – of yellow zinnias and red *gumamelas*, fragrant white *camia* and pink roses, *suntans* in assorted hues and even the violet flowers of *banaba* – by the foot of an image of the Virgin Mary. (As indeed the catechism lessons always concluded with the same floral offerings, but on a lesser scale.)

No way that sanctified Flores de Mayo can ever get even the slightest resemblance to the Flores de Mayo as malpracticed now.

The impropriety turned outrageous with the decolletaged Binibining Pilipinas Miss Globe as *Reina de las Flores* with the cartoonized *SpongeBob* and *Patrick Star* as escorts.

Already outrageous, further abutting on the sacrilegious with that very account of "... Catholic tradition of giving honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary through flower offering, was successfully carried out as the candidates of this year's Mutya at Lakaning San Fernando participated by wearing Filipiniana gowns and "barong tagalog."

The fulfillment of the sacred rites achieved by the mere "participation" of native-garbed beauty pageant candidates! What branch of the theology, even but as mere academic discipline, can rationalize such depravity?

Reaffirmed now a thesis I postulated the first time, in 2008, that I took to task this perversion of this festival for the Mary month of May:

...FLORES DE Mayo (has come to be) ... a part of a cultural heritage...Not of our Catholic and Spanish heritage though, but way earlier in the march of time.

The way it is celebrated today, Flores de Mayo goes back to the pre-Christian era, way back to mythical Olympus itself and the worship of its pantheon of gods, in this wise, Bacchus and Aphrodite. Our *sagalas* taking after the vestal virgins, their couturiers after the eunuchs at the temples and palaces.

And as if these were not enough a desecration of the religious essence of the ceremony, there now are Flores de Mayo celebrations by, for, and of the gay community. One even sported the very funny and punned *Flawless de Mayo*. Which tortured the Philippine Catholic hierarchy no end.

Neither homophobe nor homophile am I, but a line's got to be drawn between the unrestrained expression of rights and the disparagement of faith.

Or maybe, I am just a medieval monk lost in contemporary times. Call Grand Inquisitor Torquemada! Save Mother Church! Burn all heretics at the stake!

Good God, what has become of us.

TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

Governor Francisco de Sande sends off an officer to subdue the Sulu Islands

ON MAY 23, 1578, Governor Francisco de Sande, who had taken possession of Borneo for Spain, sent off an officer, Esteban Rodriguez de Figueroa, to subdue the Sulu Islands, instructing him to convert (as gently as he can) the pirates of that place into peaceful farmers, paying tribute to the Spanish Crown. De Sande was the third governor of the Philippines who ruled from August 25, 1575 to April 1580.

A sailor without a destination cannot hope for a favorable wind. –Leon Tec

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Halo-halo
Ding Cervantes

Opinion

UFOs amid Heaven, Purgatory, hell

THE BELIEF of some people that UFO's - which are showing up more and more in various shapes in behaviors these days- belong to the scientific realm is gaining more foothold. Unfortunately,

It is, however, a belief prophesied as "signs in the sky" and are more spiritual than physical, amid reverse impact on the modern minds. A survey done in the US has revealed that these days, more Americans believe in the existence of extraterrestrial life rather than in Jesus Christ.

I had always suspected this would happen. The preponderance of UFO's, especially in our times of moral degeneration, would shelve God aside amid increasing faith, buttressed by UFO sightings, that there are highly intelligent beings in other galaxies. It's a belief outside the scope of the Bible and therefore erasing God, sort of.

Science will never be able to explain, nay, even study them because scientific instruments are always calculated to cope only with the material universe, not the spiritual. Yet in renowned universities in the US, including Harvard, UFO's are now being taken seriously so that UFO studies have become part of curriculum, in the fashion that such universities had founded parapsychology as science that, however incongruously, deals with the preternatural.

The shift towards faith in science because of "scientific" UFO's and the concomitant descent of faith in the spiritual is beyond reasonable explanation if some other extraordinary events of our times are considered: supernatural apparitions and miracles. In our times (and for so long a time, since 1981) the apparitions of the Blessed Mother in Medjugorje, on top of miracles related to the events, such as the dancing sun and links of rosaries turning into gold.

Faith in extraterrestrials? I'd rather believe in Medjugorje where things beyond the competence of science have been witnessed by millions over the years. And I'd rather focus on the developments from there, such as the physical transportation of two of the six Medjugorje visionaries to Heaven, Purgatory and Hell.

Yes, Medjugorje confirmed extraterrestrials. There's a world beyond us earthlings, and that's Heaven. And there are subterraneans, too, if we are to take the testimonies of people who later became saints who had located Purgatory and Hell in the innards of the earth.

Now that I have mentioned this, I feel

obligated to share information about the witnessing of the other worlds by Medjugorje visionaries Vicka and Jakov.

Here's Vicka: "Our Lady took my right hand, Jakov's left hand, she was a little ahead of us and she just took us with her. And the ceiling just opened up for us to pass. In a second we found ourselves in Paradise. We saw a huge space and a kind of light that does not exist at all here on earth. We saw people looking the very same. There were no thin ones, no fat ones, everyone looked the same. They were all dressed in greyish, pink and yellow colour. They were walking around, they were praying and singing and small little angels were flying over them. Our Lady said to them 'look at how happy these people in Paradise are'. It is a kind of happiness that cannot be described and happiness that cannot be lived here on the earth.

"When we reached Purgatory, we also saw one huge area but in Purgatory we could not see people at all. It was all mist and fog, but you could feel, you could hear people suffering there. Our Lady said that people who are in Purgatory, that they are waiting for our prayers so that they can go to Paradise.

"In Hell, we saw one big fire and then we saw people who looked completely normal but then when they would go through that fire, they would be transformed into different kind of animals and you could hear them cursing and blaspheming. Our Lady said that people who are in Hell, they came there because of their own will, because they wanted. Our Lady said that people here on earth, if they are doing everything against God, they already live a kind of hell and later on when they die they just continue living it.

"Our Lady said that there so many people who live in today's world, here on the earth and yet they think once you die, the life finishes completely. Our Lady said people who think that way, they are wrong. Once this life finishes, the other one starts. We are just passengers here (passing through) and life continues. We are really here just the passengers and Our Lady showed us this just to share it with you so that you can realise that we are just passengers here."



Napag-uusapan Lang
Felix M. Garcia

Karing sadia't bayung alal king balayan kung beitan

MEYARI na ing alalan, at ikayung ken mikalmâ ban magserbisyu king balen, a imbut yung misaplalâ, ngening iko' ing aligan ding kekayu migtiwalâ gampanan yu sanang ustu tungkulan yu at upayâ;

E yo' sana pikakamuan at e kayu magmaratnâ karing meging kalaban yu at botanting e yu ikuâ, yari na ing pulitika, at kalinguan yu na ngan sâ ing nanu mang e masanting a memaglual a salitâ

Dake na ning pulitika itang mipapamasibas a mialiwang kapanyiran at amanung mangaparas, uling maging king pamilya, misan daratang ing oras mibubungil la mu naman agyang ding mikakapatad

Ding aliwa pa mo kaya a e tugma king pamalak ding e milaklakan ustung prinsipyu na ing medalpak? Pekamaulagang dili, ibakut na ing milabas kekang kulkul a malalam ban mituknang na ing lingasngas.

Sana retang salukuyan, a magobra munisipyu a keutus ding kekayung ketunggaling pulitiku, den e yu la bebenggansan at darayu karing pwestu nung den karapat-dapat la ampon mayap magserbisyu;

Dapot detang mangatako, lamaran at abusadu a'yalang sawang mangikil karing lulokwan dang tau, ila ring mumunang dili a dapat panyikaran yu pablasang ila ring salut a sisira king gubyernu.

Sana isundu yu murin mangasanting a programa lalu nung ing kapakayan, makakayap karing masa; antimo ing scholarship a pamie na ning mayora para kareting magaral, pangdagdag pangmatrikula;

Antimurin ing metung pang dapat dinan yung suporta ing dikil king kabulasan, pamuntukan nang doktora; ding adwang bage mesambit, ila ring peka-kaladua na ning metung a balayan a dapat dinan ulaga.

Makisanmetung la rin sa' ring kandidatung mesambut karing bayung manungkulan king tagimpan da at buyut, at mag-ari karing pusu itang pamikakalugud at masabal, ban ing balen, misaplala yang tibubus.

Nung atin lang munikala, e ra sana pagkaimut ipasiag at idake ren karing ngeni pa miluluk, male tamu ring karelang ideyang makasalikut king panyulung na ning balen, metung la king makasaup.

Kekong sablang memanyambut king milabas a alalan, payabut ku ing masambat a puge ampon kapurian; muna king kagalang-galang a Mayor Jun S. Punsalan, kang Vice Mayor Leonora Wong, Konsehal Mark Macapagal;

Kang sadiang Vice Mayor Keko, Randell Bondoc, Irene Bagtas, Dading Santos, Beda, Archie Basilio at Irene Dagdag, Luid kayu ngan, at luid ya, ing balen ta'ng ngeni tanyag keng industrya at komersyu, e mu keti Pilipinas.

At iti kapamalatan ding matapat menungkulan a keti mituki-tuking minugit king kapamalan lokal ning balen San Simon, iniasa't e ya melakuan karing insa' mang balayan karas keng bage makanyan.

At sana pin lalu yang manianga at mamulaklak king egana-ganang bage na pa niting ikakayap lalam dang pamangasiwa ding sadya at bayung salpak keng puestu ra sukat dang pagmalasakitan ganap.

Kalinguan ta'na pamu ing marinat a pulitika, at ken ing arapan tamu pamagserbisyu talaga para king ikasaplala ning balayan - at e para king binye ming katungkulan, magpakabsi at mikwalta!

Vhelle V. Garcia
May 22, 2019
United Arab Emirates

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Pogi wants health, ONA prioritized

FROM PAGE 1

the state of our hospital and how bad it is. This is the foremost complaint of our citizenry in the City of Angeles),” Lazatin said.

The ONA will undergo a major overhaul, said Lazatin. “We need to reassess our emergency room and see if what they are doing is right. We need to reassess everything,” he stressed.

But first and foremost is we have to put in medicines because there are no medicines there right now, he added.

“We will also look at the personnel that are still needed,” he said.

The incoming mayor said the rural health

units (RHUs) in Angles City will all be activated because “most of the six RHUs are not operational and they don’t have medicines.”

Lazatin said there is a building that they use for private patients at the ONA. “We might be removing this or divide it so that the other half will become a PhilHealth ward,” he pointed out.

The private patients will be in the PhilHealth wards which means if you are a PhilHealth member you can use that since it is paying to the city, he explained.

Transition team

Lazatin said his transition team is ready and

just waiting for the invitation of outgoing Mayor Ed Pamintuan.

The Lazatin transition team is led by incoming city administrator Atty. Willie Rivera, Kiko Sicangco on finance as well as Frankie Villanueva, and Atty. Kersey Lazatin.

Malabanas Barangay Captain Rey Gueco will handle the transport sector while the office of the Barangay Affairs will be led by Dan Nacu.

Dr. Vic Lague and Dr. Froilan Canlas will be at the medical front and will help in the overhaul of the health care system.

Drug-free Angeles City

In combatting illegal drugs, “we need to talk to

all the barangay captains the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) should be fixed because that is where we are going to start,” Lazatin said.

“We will also talk to the SK Federation so that the youth will no longer be involved in illegal drugs,” he added.

Lazatin said his dream “is for our city to be the first to be declared drug free in Central Luzon that is why we will also work relentlessly on this goal in cleaning up drugs in our barangays.”

Stop construction

Lazatin said the city council will file a resolution to stop all the construction at the new city

hall and at the sports complex and “let us see what the city really needs at this time.”

He also said no city hall employee will be unceremoniously booted out without due process.

On solving the traffic woes

“We need to go back to basics. We need to study the traffic situation of the whole city before

we can make our plans,” he said.

Lazatin said it will be now easy for him to request for flyovers since his brother, Rep. Jon Lazatin has been reelected.

“Like if we need flyovers, this is costly and the LGU cannot afford it but we can request from our congressman so that it can be funded by congress,” he said.

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **RITA C. RAMOS-CANLAS** who died intestate on May 18, 1984 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Renunciation of Rights and Deed of Donation on her estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 12, Block 5 of the subdivision plan (LRC) Pad-97370, being a portion of Lot 5 described on plan (LRC) Psd-92474, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Rec. No. 124) with improvements existing thereon, situated in the Barrio of Balibago, City of Angeles, Island of Luzon and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 51182, before Notary Public Michael C. Yabut as per Doc No. 211, Page No. 43, Book No. XXIII, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: May 23, 30 & June 6, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **MARIO ESGUERRA** who died intestate on June 14, 1998 in Mexico, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Special Power of Attorney on his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 16 of the subdivision plan Psd-03-029312 (OLT), being a portion of Lot 2 Pcs-03-000300 and L.R.C. Rec. No. ___), situated in the Barrio of San Nicolas & San Lorenzo, Municipality of Mexico, Province of Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 11837, Emancipation Patent No. 412398 in the Registry of Deeds of Pampanga, before Notary Public Gener C. Endona as per Doc No. 195, Page No. 40, Book No. 56, Series of 2017.

Punto! Central Luzon: May 9, 16 & 23, 2019

NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that **RODOLFO SOTO UYENGCO**, 89 years old, Filipino, married, resident of No. 13 Narra St., L&S Subd., Angeles City and sole heir of **LUIS D. UYENGCO** and **MARIA D. SOTO-UYENGCO** who both died intestate on April 7, 1961 and December 18, 1994, respectively, executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication with Sale on their estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot No. 931 of the Cadastral Survey of Bacolor) situated in San Vicente, Bacolor, Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 16598-R in the Registry of Deeds for Province of Pampanga, before Notary Public Bryant R. Canasa as per Doc No. 375, Page No. 76, Book No. 1, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: May 16, 23 & 30, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT THIRD JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 60 ANGELES CITY

PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF PETITIONER, PARTICULARLY HER MIDDLE NAME FROM “P” TO “DELA CRUZ”; MOTHER’S NAME FROM MARITESS C. PAGUIO TO MARITESS P. DELA CRUZ; AND DATE OF MARRIAGE OF PARENTS FROM JULY 16, 1982 TO JULY 7, 1984,

LESLEY D. DELA CRUZ,
Petitioner,

-versus-

R-ANG-19-01493-SP

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF ANGELES CITY
AND PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY,
Respondents.

x-----x

ORDER

On April 26, 2019, petitioner Lesley D. Dela Cruz through counsel, Atty. Melba DC Lopez filed a verified petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, an Order be issued directing the respondents to amend the entries appearing on the birth certificate of petitioner, under Registry No. 87-6647, as follows:

1. petitioner’s middle name from “P” to “Dela Cruz”;
2. name of mother from MARITESS C. PAGUIO to MARITESS P. DELA CRUZ; and
3. the date of marriage of petitioner’s parents from July 16, 1982 to July 7, 1984

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court hereby: (a) sets the case for hearing on July 11, 2019 at 8:30 in the morning; (b) order petitioner (1) to serve within seventy-two (72) hours from receipt hereof copies of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General of the Philippines at 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, and Office of the City Prosecutor, Angeles City; (c) orders all persons interested in this petition to appear on said date and time before this court, Regional Trial Court, Branch 60, Angeles City and to show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted; (d) directs the Solicitor General to enter his appearance in this case for the State, within seventy-two (72) hours from receipt of this Order; and (e) directs the Branch Clerk of Court of this Court to furnish copies hereof to the petitioner, her counsel, the Solicitor General, the Civil Registrar of Angeles City, the City Prosecutor, Angeles City and the Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City.

Let copy of this order be furnished the petitioner and her counsel. Further, the petitioner at her expense, is hereby ordered to cause the publication of this Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga and Angeles City in accordance with P.D. 1702 before the date of hearing for three (3) consecutive weeks.

SO ORDERED.

Angeles City, Philippines, April 30, 2019.

EDA P. DIZON-ERA
Presiding Judge

cc:

Office of the Solicitor General- 134 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village Makati City
Office of the City Prosecutor- Angeles City
Philippine Statistics Authority- Quezon City
Local Civil Registrar- Angeles City, Pampanga
Atty. Melba DC Lopez
Petitioner

Punto! Central Luzon: May 20, 27 & June 3, 2019

Probe alleged ONA neglected patient

FROM PAGE 1

tin, upon assuming office, he is going to implement a ‘one-strike’ policy for health workers and staffers in ONA wherein any member of the hospital staff proven to have been neglectful of their duties or have been rude

to patients will immediately be removed from their post.

Lazatin has often spoken publicly about the need for reform at ONA and on the campaign trail, he often highlighted the issue of public health as one of his top priorities.

As part of his Six-Point Agenda, Lazatin had vowed to increase the city’s Rural Health Units (RHU), improve the facilities and services of ONA, and provide free mandatory annual physical check-up and other medical-related benefits for all Senior Citizens in

this city.

Lazatin’s Six-Point Agenda also includes improving the city’s solid-waste management and infrastructure, promoting youth and sports development, and making Angeles a ‘drug-cleared’ city.

—Press release

Investigate poll winners in narco-list

FROM PAGE 1

and the Southern Tagalog region.

Albayade, however, did not name the candidates.

“While vote-buying may have become commonplace to some people, the inordinate, flagrant and scandalous vote-buying in areas where the narco-politicians won must be investigated. A lot of vote-buying occurred and there are affidavits to show that. Where there are massive vote-buying, cash was used. And because so many thousands of pesos were distributed, AMLC should look into that. The BIR should look into their capability, the Comelec should investigate, and the police should also investigate,” he said.

Gordon said the

AMLC should determine if there were large-scale withdrawals from banks and who withdrew money on those days, so that charges could be filed.

Otherwise, he added, the strategic areas where the narco-politicians won that are conducive to drug smuggling, could become part of a drug cartel just like the Cali Cartel, a drug cartel based in southern Colombia, which had military, political and legal connections.

Gordon pointed out that “the narco-politicians also fielded other family members to various positions, to have the influence to ensure their protection from harassment. They also forged alliances with local candidates who were also just as desperate to win to protect their graft and corrupt practices.”

“In the case of Zambales, a province with a 272-kilometer coastline which is right next to Scarborough Shoals and near China where lots of smuggled drugs originate from, there was rampant vote-buying from Subic to Sta. Cruz and Olongapo City,” he said.

He cited a prominent political family members in the province “who were among those named by the President as narco-politicians, engaged in massive vote-buying in Zambales to ensure their victory. They bagged four positions, aside from the local candidates they supported in various municipalities and city who also won,” Gordon said in his statement.

“It is obviously an attempt by the narco-politicians to save themselves

by getting positions. They now hold sway over these areas. Now, these people have proven that with just money, they can win, they can buy the Comelec, they can buy votes. I have never seen anything like it in my life, and I blew the whistle on it, four days before the elections. It is dangerous for us now because Zambales is a coastline province right next to Scarborough Shoals. It would be so easy to bring in drugs,” he deplored.

Gordon recalled that “Zambales First District Representative Jeffrey Khonghun and his son Mayor Jefferson Khonghun were included in the President’s narco-list after a floating shabu laboratory was raided in Subic, Zambales where the younger Khonghun was mayor.”

Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan’ yields...

FROM PAGE 1

high yielding vegetables.

Present during the graduation ceremony were Eme Velasquez, Store Manager Hypermarket Clark, Ferdie Canlas, PSPO DSWD Region 3, Jham Pelagio, representative Dept. of Agriculture HVC-DP Region 3, Eric Dagdag, Angeles City Agriculturist, and the first lady of Angeles City Mrs. Herminia Pamintuan. —PR





Spotlight Arci Pineda

Aiko Melendez returns to GMA after BF Jay Khonghun wins Vice governor in Zambales

A-1 ACTRESS Aiko Melendez returns to GMA-7 after nine years for the upcoming afternoon series, *Prima Donnas* top-billed by Kapuso tween actresses Jillian Ward, Sofia Pablo, and Althea Ablan.

A source told us that Aiko was present at the story conference and took test that is being held at GMA Network Center.

In an article published on GMANetwork.com on May 17, it was revealed that Katrina Halili, Wendell Ramos, Benjie Paras, and Chanda Romero will join Aiko and the three tweens in this series. Aiko was not yet identified as a cast member in the published article.

GMA-7's @kapusoprgirl Instagram account posted the official cast members of *Prima Donnas*, which already included Aiko. She was standing beside Wendell, who was her partner in ABS-CBN's 2017 early prime-time series, *Wildflower*.

Prior to @kapusoprgirl's post, Sofia's Instagram story update showed that she is currently at the story conference of *Prima Donnas*.

Althea also posted a Boomerang update on her Instagram story, which accidentally showed Aiko's name as part of the cast. As seen in the screenshot, Aiko will play the role of Kendra in *Prima Donnas*.

Prima Donnas is Aiko's first teleserye with GMA-7 after almost nine years. Her last project as a Kapuso was the afternoon series, *Sine Novela: Basahang Ginto*, aired in 2010. She played the mother of Carla Abellana's character. *Basahang Ginto* also served as Aiko's first regular daily teleserye.

After *Basahang Ginto*, Aiko was able to do a string of projects in ABS-CBN. These include *kontrabida* roles in *Reputasyon* (2011), *Inday Bote* (2015), *The Story of Us* (2016), and *Wildflower* (2017), where she played the iconic role of Emilia Ardiente-Torillo.

Her other ABS-CBN shows were *Apoy sa Dagat* (2012), *Give Love On Christmas: The Gift-Giver* (2014), and *Bagani* (2018).

In February 2019, ABS-CBN and Dreamscape Entertainment announced that Aiko will be part of the upcoming series, *Sandugo*, which will be top-billed by Aljur Abrenica and Ejay Falcon. Aiko even attended the look test and story conference of the *Kapamilya* show.

However, in March 2019, Aiko announced that she had to back out of *Sandugo* because she wanted to focus on campaigning for her boyfriend, Jay Khonghun. He eventually won as Zambales vice governor. Vina Morales already took over the role originally meant for Aiko.



SANYA LOPEZ and Benjamin Alves play a married couple in the new GMA-7 afternoon series *Dahil Sa Pag-ibig*. The Kapuso teleserye replaced *Inagaw na Bituin* and is now pitted against two ABS-CBN shows: *Kadenang Ginto* and *Bihag*.

Sanya and Benjamin top-bill this Kapuso show together with Winwyn Marquez and Pancho Magno.

The Sanya and Ben already worked together on the weekend comedy show *Dear Uge: Panira ng Anniversary* that aired on March 17, 2019.

Directed by actor-director Ricky Davao, *Dahil Sa Pag-ibig* showcases the difficulties and temptations that a married couple encounter when separated by distance. In the series, Sanya Lopez brings life to Mariel while Benjamin Alves is cast as Eldon.

Mariel Corpuz is a doting mother and wife who's love and loyalty will be put into test when her OFW husband's life will be at risk.

Eldon Corpuz is a hardworking father and husband who decided to work abroad to be able to provide for his family. However, he commits a grave crime that will land him in jail and earn him a death sentence.

Meanwhile, Pancho Magno is cast as Gary Sandoval, Mariel's rich former lover who still can't get over her. To free her husband from a terrible fate, Mariel reached out to him to ask for help.

Also in the cast are Winwyn Marquez as Portia, Eldon's other woman and the wife of Eldon's employer; Tetchie Agbayani as Clara, Eldon's strict mother; Sandy Andolong as Nanette, Mariel's supportive mother; Dominic Roco as Roger; and Devon Seron as Chin Chin.

The pilot episode of *Dahil Sa Pag-ibig* begins by showing a bridal car that suddenly breaks down. This leaves the bride Mariel (Sanya Lopez) feeling anxious because she wouldn't be able to arrive on

time for her wedding.

Viewers then see the groom Eldon (Benjamin Alvarez) waiting for his bride in the church with his mother Clara (Tetchie Agbayani) and other guests.

Clara's behavior shows how much she dislikes Mariel for her son. She says that she is pissed off with Mariel's attitude because she did not even give prior notice that she'll be arriving late given that it was their wedding day.

Clara then murmurs to her son that maybe Mariel became ashamed of the fact that he will be the one to support her family.

The bride's mother Nanette (Sandy Andolong) hears this insult. She warns Clara to watch her words. She insists that they should not push through with the wedding if Clara continues to belittle their family. Eldon stops his mother and his soon-to-be mother-in-law from arguing.

Finally, the bridal car arrives and the relieved groom Eldon embraces Mariel upon seeing her.

The wedding ceremony begin but a drunk Gary (Pancho Magno) tries to stop their wedding. The groomsmen stop Gary from interrupting the ceremony.

Five years later, Eldon is seen working abroad while Mariel is living with their daughter and mother-in-law.

Eldon tells his wife and daughter that he sent over a package.

Clara still dislikes Mariel since she asks their househelper to clear out a space in her room so that the package will be placed there.

The scene then shows Mariel and her daughter inside a taxi and were on their way to pick up the package from a certain address.

Little did they know, Eldon is only setting them up.

Mariel and her daughter cry tears of joy upon seeing Eldon go down the stairs of the house. The couple shares a kiss and is happily reunited. Eldon reveals that the house is his gift for Mariel and their daughter.

The couple hold a house blessing and afterwards, Mariel and Eldon make love.

The couple shares plenty of bonding moments until Eldon have to depart again as an OFW.

Sometime in the future, Chinchin goes to Mariel's house. She hands Mariel her order: lipstick and makeup foundation. Her mother, Nanette, is happy that her daughter bought these so that unlike her, she will not experience infidelity from her husband. The mother stresses that it's important to take care of oneself so that her husband won't look at other women.

Chinchin argues with her and declares, "Walang relasyong pang habambuhay kung may malanding buhay."

In Saudi, Eldon has a drinking session with his co-workers and they talk about what they miss most about their home. They are interrupted by a knock on the door.

Eldon opens the door and sees Portia (Winwyn Marquez).

The pilot episode ends by showing Eldon who is cooking and Portia suddenly appears to hug him from behind.

He warns her about the strict rules in Saudi and that she should not cheat on her husband. However, Portia insists that she just wants to cheer herself up since her husband is always either out of town or out of the country.

Eldon tells her that he is happily married. Dismayed, Portia reminds Eldon that she is the one who helps fellow Filipinos when they encounter problems.

Eldon eventually rejects Portia's attempt to seduce him. Unfortunately, from afar, an Arab saw them being intimate with each other.

The teaser for the next episode shows how Portia's Arab husband furiously dragged Eldon inside a car. Eldon and Mariel fight and have an argument on the phone.

Viewers get a glimpse of Portia and Eldon having sex inside a shower.

After many years, Gary (Pancho Magno) returns and he is still in love with Mariel.

CSF, NHCP call...

FROM PAGE 1

dents, barangay officials, and mall and establishments personnel about the proper display and tribute to the flag.

During the discussion, resource speaker Teodoro "Teddy" Atienza, NHCP Chief of Heraldry Section, imparted some major contents of the country's Republic Act 8491 or the "Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines."

His lecture spun around the first and second chapters of the act which prescribes Design of the National Flag, Hoisting and Display of the National Flag, Conduct of Flag Raising Ceremony, Half-Mast, Casket, Pledge of the Flag, Flag Days, Specifications of the National Flag, and Prohibited Acts; and, discussion on the country's National Anthem.

"Ang ating pambansang watawat ay sumagsag sa pagiging Pilipino natin at sumisimbolo sa ating bansa. Ito ay nabuo dahil sa pagmamahal sa bayan kaya patuloy nating isaisip ang pagbibigay-pugay at respeto dito," said Atienza.

He also led the actual demonstration of the proper folding of the flag and draping on caskets.

The demonstrations were assisted by personnel of the City Tourism Office, Boy Scouts of the Philippines, and Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

For his part, Mayor Edwin "EdSa" Santiago said that this call to community will reignite the patriotism of Fernandinos.

"Isang paraan upang maipakita ang patriotismo sa bansa ay ang paggalang sa mga simbolong tulad ng ating watawat. Natutuwa tayo dahil tinulungan tayo ng NHCP na magdaos ng seminar dahil sa paraang ito, mas lalong titindi ang pagmamahal ng Fernandino sa bansa," Santiago said.

Apart from this, the City Government will also hold activities for the National Flag Day on May 28 at Heroes Hall. —CSFP-CIO



Atienza

Angeles City...

FROM PAGE 1

fectively and efficiently respond to any emergency situation has paid off and finally recognized higher government authorities".

For his part, Mayor Pamintuan attributed the winning streak of the city to the annual Gawad Kalasag as "the effect of good governance that puts priority to public safety, security, and disaster preparedness".

"I would like to congratulate our people, the Angeleños, behind this success. This is not a lone initiative of the city government anymore but a collaborative effort with the community towards stirring a more disaster-resilient and disaster-responsive Angeles City," said Pamintuan.

Under Pamintuan's leadership, the city was able to set the direction for the development, implementation, and coordination of disaster risk management programs for the city anchored to OCD's standards and guidelines.

"I am hoping that the next set of leaders in our beloved city will continue to support these efforts we have started, and sustain them by organizing series of knowledge advancement symposia and capability-building trainings on DRRM," the city mayor added.

Gawad Kalasag is an annual search that aims to recognize local DRRMCs in barangays, school and medical institutions, organizations, and individuals who render exemplary contribution in promoting and implementing significant DRRM-Climate Change Adaptation program and innovations that build community resiliency in the long term.

This is the second consecutive year that Angeles City was adjudged to receive the Regional Gawad Kalasag Award. With this, the city will represent the region as it qualifies to the National Gawad Kalasag Award.

Winners are yet to be awarded in a fitting conferment ceremony. —Angeles CIO



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Mabalacat City
Province of Pampanga

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 126th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2019 AT THE MABALACAT CITY HALL ANNEX, CLARKFIELD, PAMPANGA

PRESENT:	Hon. Christian C. Halili	-Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer
	Hon. Gerald Guttrie P. Aquino	- Member
	Hon. Roland D. Peña	- Member
	Hon. Moises Dwight Oliver P. Morales	- Member
	Hon. Eduardo D. Sotto	- Member
	Hon. Amauri M. Tiglao	- Member
	Hon. Carlo Nino C. Rivera	- Member
	Hon. Danilo B. Bayani	- Member
	Hon. Hans Christian G. Balingit	- Member
ABSENT:	Hon. Rogelio Q. Yumul	- Member
	Hon. Jerry M. Basilio	- Member
	Hon. Krizzanel C. Garbo	- Member
	Hon. Marjorie Grace M. Sambo	- Member
	Hon. Ruvielane S. Margarito	- Member

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 86
Series of 2019

AN ORDINANCE

GRANTING A ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EIGHTY FIVE YEARS OLD AND ABOVE SENIOR CITIZENS OF MABALACAT CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Sponsored by: **Hon. Gerald Guttrie P. Aquino**
Co-Sponsored by: **Hon. Eduardo D. Sotto**

WHEREAS, the City Government of Mabalacat, in recognition of the invaluable contributions of Senior Citizens to nation-building, grants benefits and privileges to Senior Citizens pursuant to the objectives of Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010;

WHEREAS, the ordinance seeks to honor our Senior Citizens in Mabalacat City, through the grant of additional benefits as our way of reaffirming the long time honored tradition of caring for our elderly especially those reaching the age of eighty five (85) years old;

WHEREAS, the grant of a one-time financial assistance is in keeping with the City Government's program for Senior Citizens;

BE IT ENACTED AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod in a regular session duly assembled that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as **“AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EIGHTY FIVE YEARS OLD AND ABOVE SENIOR CITIZENS OF MABALACAT CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”**

SECTION 2. SCOPE. This Ordinance shall cover all Mabalaqueños living in the city at the time when he or she reaches the age of eighty five years old or older;

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.

SENIOR CITIZEN – refers to any resident / citizen of Mabalacat City, Pampanga who is at least sixty (60) years old;

ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – refers to a tax-free one-time financial assistance given to a qualified 85 years old or above Senior Citizen by the LGU of Mabalacat City;

OSCA- refers to the Office for the Senior Citizens Affairs of Mabalacat City;

OSCA ID-refers to the identification card issued for free by the city government of Mabalacat to Senior Citizens;

ADJUDICATION- refers to the manner by which the one-time financial assistance is distributed among the legal heirs in case wherein the qualified eighty five year old Senior Citizen of the LGU dies ahead of the official awarding of the 20K financial assistance from the city, has dementia, and/or is incapacitated and can no longer make proper decisions.

SECTION 4. LEGAL BASIS. Article II (Declaration of Principles and State policies), Section 10 of the Constitution states that, “The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development”, and Article XV (The Family), Section 4 provides that, “The family has the duty to take care of its elderly members” the relevant principles of RA No. 9984 of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 and 2010 which already recognized the rights, role and worth of senior citizens in our country;

SECTION 5. AWARD COMMITTEE ON ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: There shall be an award committee created and tasked hereof to evaluate and validate proofs to determine the true and actual age of the prospective awardee and to determine their qualification. The award committee shall be composed of the City Mayor as the Chairman and the Local Civil Registrar as Vice-Chairman with the following as members:

- SP Committee Chairperson on Senior Citizen
- City Treasurer
- CSWD Officer
- OSCA HEAD
- City Legal Officer

SECTION 6. QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- The applicant/claimant must be a resident of Mabalacat City and must have lived and resided in Mabalacat City for at least twenty five (25) years;
- The applicant/claimant must still be alive at the time he or she reaches the age of 85 years old or more.

SECTION 7. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Prospective beneficiaries must submit the following documentary requirements to the awards committee mentioned in the immediately preceding Section to support his or her application consisting of the following:

- 1. Filled-up General Information Sheet (GIS) and Social Case Study Report from the City Social Welfare and Development Office;
- 2. Certificate of Live Birth or record of birth issued by the National Statistics Office or the Local Civil Registry Office of the City; and
- 3. OSCA ID issued by the Government of Mabalacat City;
- 4. Duly accomplished CSWDO form to be submitted to the Barangay for their signature attesting the 25 years of residency.

Provided that in the absence of the certificate of live birth or record of birth, prospective beneficiaries must submit any of the following supporting documents:

- 1. Marriage Contract from the national Statistics Office;
- 2. Baptismal and/or confirmation certificates; and
- 3. Affidavit of two (2) disinterested and unrelated persons who are at least seventy five (75) years old or above which shall be duly notarized by notary public.

Other optional supporting documents that may be considered by the award committee such as, but not limited to the following;

- 1. Birth Certificates of children;
- 2. War veteran records;
- 3. Any other official or government record showing the date of birth of the applicant/s;
- 4. Any substitute record or documents which the award committee may determine to be sufficient to establish the true date of birth of the applicant.

SECTION 8. RELEASE OF THE ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php20,000.00)

After satisfying the sufficient qualification and documentary requirements qualifying for the award, the City Government, through its City Mayor upon the recommendation of the aforementioned committee, shall release in a fitting ceremony, a ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) benefit to any or each qualified awardee of Mabalacat City;

SECTION 9. MANNER OF ADJUDICATION IF AN 85 YEAR OLD AND ABOVE SENIOR CITIZEN DIES PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF HIS/HER ONE-TIME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR IS INCAPACITATED AND CAN NO LONGER MAKE PROPER DECISIONS. In the event that the 85 years senior citizen dies without yet receiving the one-time financial assistance, has dementia, and/or is incapacitated and can no longer make proper decisions, his/her surviving legal heirs shall receive the proceeds therefrom in the form of financial assistance which shall be share equally among them.

The awards committee shall adjudicate the death claim benefit for the legal spouse and children only and upon ascertaining their qualifications shall equally distribute the proceeds among them.

SECTION 10. SOURCE OF FUNDING. Funding for this ordinance shall be appropriated in the annual budget of Mabalacat City and shall be appropriated under grants and subsidies of the CSWDO-Senior Citizen Fund. An initial funding of Three Million Pesos (P 3,000,000) is hereby appropriated.

SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this ordinance shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. REPEALING CLAUSE. Ordinance No. 55, Series of 2016 and all other Ordinances and Administrative regulations or part thereof which is inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after its publication in the newspaper of local circulation or porting in three (3) conspicuous places of the City.

ENACTED: This 20th day of February 2019 on motion of Hon. Gerald Guttrie P. Aquino, duly seconded by Hons. Sotto & Morales.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Aileen G. Peña
SP Secretary

ATTESTED BY:

CHRISTIAN C. HALILI
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

CHRISTIAN C. HALILI
Presiding Officer

GERALD GUTTRIE P. AQUINO
Member

ROLAND D. PEÑA
Member

MOISES DWIGHT OLIVER P. MORALES
Member

EDUARDO D. SOTTO
Member

AMAURI M. TIGLAO
Member

CARLO NIÑO C. RIVERA
Member

DANILO B. BAYANI
Member

HANS CHRISTIAN G. BALINGIT
Member

APPROVED:

CRISOSTOMO C. GARBO
City Mayor
Date: February 20, 2019



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Mabalacat City
Province of Pampanga

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

MINUTES OF THE 126th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2019 AT THE MABALACAT CITY HALL ANNEX, CLARKFIELD, PAMPANGA

PRESENT:	Hon. Christian C. Halili	-Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer
	Hon. Gerald Guttrie P. Aquino	- Member
	Hon. Roland D. Peña	- Member
	Hon. Moises Dwight Oliver P. Morales	- Member
	Hon. Eduardo D. Sotto	- Member
	Hon. Amauri M. Tiglao	- Member
	Hon. Carlo Nino C. Rivera	- Member
	Hon. Danilo B. Bayani	- Member
	Hon. Hans Christian G. Balingit	- Member
ABSENT:	Hon. Rogelio Q. Yumul	- Member
	Hon. Jerry M. Basilio	- Member
	Hon. Krizzanel C. Garbo	- Member
	Hon. Marjorie Grace M. Sambo	- Member
	Hon. Ruvielane S. Margarito	- Member

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 87
Series of 2019

**AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A SEPTAGE AND SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN MABALACAT CITY**

Author: Hon. Roland D. Peña

WHEREAS, Mabalacat City is committed to the principle of sustainable development in the management of the city's physical and natural resources;

WHEREAS, an environmental concern of Mabalacat City is sustainable management of water and its aquatic ecosystems;

WHEREAS, Mabalacat City is committed to improving the water quality of groundwater, waterways, and the tributaries to provide for the present and future needs of the community;

WHEREAS, the sources of large amount of contaminants or discharges come from untreated domestic sewage, trade wastes and industrial liquid wastes which can cause significant health risks to people using the water, and to some residential areas during flooding;

WHEREAS, residential, commercial and industrial establishments continue to use septic tanks, and many had not been properly designed, improved or updated through the years, even for decades, which continue to make discharges that further degrade the groundwater and many waterways;

WHEREAS, Section 20 of the Clean Water Act (RA 9275) imposes that xxx "local government units shall share the responsibility in the management and improvement of water quality within its territorial jurisdiction" xxx;

WHEREAS, existing laws pertaining to wastewater management and treatment need a more effective framework and enforcement mechanisms for proper implementation in achieving this objective.

NOW THEREFOR, BE IT ORDAINED, AS IT IS ORDAINED, by the MABALACAT CITY COUNCIL, in session duly assembled;

SECTION 1. SCOPE. This Ordinance shall apply to all buildings and structures whether public or private, residential, commercial, institutional or industrial, proposed/planned or existing except those within Special Economic Zones.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY. This Ordinance is the enabling act for the implementation of the provisions and specifications of the following laws:

- a. The National Building Code of the Philippines
- b. The Sanitation Code of the Philippines
- c. The Plumbing Code of the Philippines
- d. The Clean Water Act

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. As used in this Ordinance, the terms below shall be defined as follows:

- 3.1 DAO – DENR Administrative Order
- 3.2 DENR – Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- 3.3 Desludging – the process of removing accumulated sludge or septage from the septic tank
- 3.4 Discharge permit – a permit to discharge something
- 3.5 DOH – Department of Health
- 3.6 Domestic sewage – sewage containing human excrement and liquid household waste
- 3.7 Effluent – discharge from known source which is passed into a body of water or land, or wastewater flowing out of a manufacturing plant, including domestic, commercial and recreational facilities
- 3.8 Master Plumber – an individual who is licensed or authorized to install and assume responsibility for contractual agreements pertaining to plumbing and to secure any required permits
- 3.9 CENRO – refers to Mabalacat City Environment and Natural Resources Officer

- 3.10 Point-source discharge – discharge from specific or identifiable source
- 3.11 Sanitary Engineer – a person duly registered with the Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineers (RA 1364)
- 3.12 Septage – the sludge produced on individual onsite wastewater disposal systems, principally septic tanks and cesspools
- 3.13 Septic tank – a water-tight receptacle which receives the drainage of a plumbing system or part thereof, and is designed to accomplish the removal and digestion of the suspended solid matter in the sewage through a period of detention
- 3.14 Sewage – waterborne human or animal wastes, excluding oil or oil wastes, removed from residences, buildings, institutions, industrial and commercial establishments together with such groundwater, surface water and storm water as may be present
- 3.15 Sewerage – any system or network of pipelines, ditches, channels or conduits including pumping stations, lift stations, force mains, service connections, including other construction, devices and treatment of sewage to a point disposal.
- 3.16 Treatment – any method, technique or process designed to alter the physical, chemical or biological and radiological character or composition of any waste or wastewater to reduce or prevent pollution
- 3.17 Wastewater – waste in liquid state containing pollutants

SECTION 4. GENERAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF SEPTIC TANKS

- 4.1 The general design and construction requirements of septic tanks shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Plumbing Code of the Philippines specifically Section 4 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the National Building Code of the Philippines and its related codes.
- 4.2 The septic tank shall be designed to be the depository of all wastewater generated within the building or structure.
- 4.3 Inaccessible or damaged septic tanks must be repaired and replaced.

SECTION 5. SEPTIC TANK MAINTENANCE.

De-sludging of septic tanks is mandatory before the solids exceed 50% of the tank volume or done every 3-5 years whichever comes first per DOH Operations Manual.

SECTION 6. PERMITTING

- 6.1 Septic tanks for industrial, commercial, institutional and residential use must be approved by a Sanitary Engineer or Master Plumber as the case may be.
- 6.2 Upon the completion of the construction of the septic tank, the covering shall be done only in the presence of the Building Inspector. The proof or certificate of inspection shall be part of the requirements in the issuance of Occupancy Permit.

SECTION 7. DE-SLUDGING AND SLUDGE DISPOSAL

- 7.1 A Committee shall be created to accredit sewerage and septage service providers. It shall be composed of :

- a. City Mayor or his representative as Chairman
- b. Chairman, SP Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as Co-Chairman
- c. City ENRO
- d. City Health Officer
- e. City Building Official

The Committee shall ensure that de-sludging, transport and disposal of sludge is done only by DOH/DENR accredited companies, private or public and accredited by the Committee. Disposal shall only be done in a DOH/DENR-approved disposal facility. Sludge materials shall not be included in the local solid waste collection system.

- 7.2 All entities under this Ordinance upon or after inspection, shall present proof of desludging (Desludging Certificate) to avoid penalties thereof.

SECTION 8. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

- 8.1 For verification purposes all wastewater effluents may undergo actual sampling and must be subjected to the existing Rules and Regulations of DENR as per DAO-35 S. of 1990 and DAO-34 S. of 1990 and DAO-08 S. of 2016.
- 8.2 Wastewater from commercial and non-residential facilities is acceptable if the septic tanks receive only wastewater typical of households (i.e. from toilets and sinks). If the wastewater contains substances of commercial nature such as oil or fuel residue, metals or high volumes of fats or grease, an appropriate pre-treatment program, approved by the CENRO or Building Official, must be put in place.

SECTION 9. COMMUNAL SYSTEM

- 9.1 Communal septic tanks shall follow the specifications as to location, design and construction requirements as provided for under Section 4 of this Ordinance.
- 9.2 Communal effluent system shall be under the guidelines provided for by the DENR.
- 9.3 Communal septic tanks are hereby required in housing areas where the individual lot area is less than fifty (50) square meters.

SECTION 10. INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

All industrial establishments are required to submit or present the latest Discharge Permit issued by the DENR. The Environmental Compliance Certificate shall also be required prior to issuance of their business permit.

SECTION 11. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- 11.1 The Mabalacat City Engineer’s Office or Building Official shall check the general design, construction and maintenance requirements of septic tanks in residential, institutional and commercial establishments. It shall designate field inspectors who will check the construction of septic tanks if the design requirements are met.
- 11.2 The CENRO in coordination with the DENR-EMB shall be in charge of regulating and monitoring wastewater discharges in identified point sources.
- 11.3 The Mabalacat City Health Office shall be in charge of regulating and monitoring the health and safety standards for septage collection, transport and disposal.
- 11.4 Right of Entrance and Inspection – No person, after being fully notified, shall interfere with or obstruct the entrance to any premises, establishment, dwelling unit or vessel, of the proper city officials or duly authorized representatives in the discharge of their official function under this Ordinance.
- 11.5 IEC Activities – The CHO is tasked to conduct IEC activities thru RHU’s and BHN’s.

SECTION 12: PENAL PROVISIONS. Any person or entity that violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be penalized as follows:

- 1. Building/structure without septic tank
 - PhP 5, 000.00 – Industrial, Commercial, Institutional
 - PhP 2,000.00 - Residential
- 2. For building/structure with incorrect/improper septic tank
 - PhP 5,000.00 - Industrial, Commercial, Institutional
 - PhP 1,000.00 - Residential
- 3. For improper sludge disposal
 - PhP 5,000.00 - Industrial, Commercial, Institutional
 - PhP 1,000.00 - Residential
- 4. For not regularly desludging septic tank
 - PhP 5,000.00 - Industrial, Commercial, Institutional
 - PhP 1,000.00 - Residential
- 5. For entities desludging and or disposing sludge who are not accredited by DOH and DENR :
 - Php 5,000.00 and revocation of business permit

SECTION 13: SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application of such provision is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 14: REPEALING CLAUSE

All City/Municipal Ordinances, resolutions issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15 : EFFECTIVITY

This ordinance shall take effect 21 days after its posting in prominent places within the City and publication in a newspaper of local circulation.

ENACTED: This 20th day of February 2019 on motion of Hon. Roland D. Peña, duly seconded by Hons. Morales & Rivera.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Aileen G. Peña
SP Secretary

ATTESTED BY:

CHRISTIAN C. HALILI
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

CHRISTIAN C. HALILI
Presiding Officer

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DANILO B. BAYANI
Member

HANS CHRISTIAN G. BALINGIT
Member

APPROVED:

CRISOSTOMO C. GARBO
City Mayor
Date: February 20, 2019

SSS offers assistance package to quake-affected members in Porac starting May 17

THE STATE-RUN Social Security System (SSS) on Friday said starting today, its members and pensioners in Porac, Pampanga may avail themselves of the Calamity Assistance Package (CAP) for their short-term and immediate financial needs after a 6.1-magnitude earthquake hit their municipality last month.

"The Social Security Commission, through Resolution No. 284-s.2019, approved the granting of assistance program to our members and pensioners affected by the earthquake in Porac, Pampanga which was declared under state of calamity by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). We are hoping that this will help SSS members and pensioners recover the damages caused by the earthquake," SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Aurora C. Ignacio said.

Through the assistance package, qualified members may avail themselves of the pension fund's Calamity Loan Assistance Program (CLAP), three-month advance pension,

and Direct House Repair and Improvement Loan.

To qualify, the applicant's home address or property must be in Porac, Pampanga, the only area declared by NDRRMC as under state of calamity.

The CLAP offers member-borrowers a loan amount of as much as his/her monthly salary credit, payable in two years in equal monthly installments, with a low annual interest rate of 10 percent and a one percent monthly penalty for late payments. SSS waived the service fee for CLAP.

"The Commission also decided not to charge a service fee for this loan program to help our members. Calamity loan checks may be picked up within 10 working days from the SSS servicing branch where the member filed his/her application," Ignacio said.

To qualify for the CLAP, the member must have at least 36 monthly contributions, six of which must have been paid within the 12-month period preceding the date of application.

Ignacio added that SSS implements a

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5J Domestic CAB Approval No. 1831-05-14-S.2019.
5J International CAB Approval No. 1832-05-14-S.2019.

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file-anywhere policy, so members need not go to Pampanga to file for the CLAP as long as they have complied with the application requirements including the Barangay Certification.

"Qualified Overseas Filipino Worker and Seafarer members who cannot file their loan applications personally may

assign a representative, provided that they present an authorization letter," Ignacio added.

CLAP is a separate loan facility from the regular salary loan, so members can avail themselves of this loan program even if they have an outstanding salary loan.

However, members

who still have outstanding loans under the SSS' Loan Restructuring Program, previous CLAPs, and those who are receiving total permanent disability or retirement pensions are not qualified to avail of said loan program.

Social Security and Employees' Compensation pensioners, on the

other hand, may apply to receive their advance three-month pension. In case that the pensioner's present address differs from his/her address in the SSS' database, he/she is required to submit a barangay certification to prove that he/she resides in the calamity-declared area.

—Press release

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