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**Punto!** PANANAW NG MALAYANG PILIPINO!

Central  
Luzon

# Japan, PHL sign \$202.04-M loan for roads in troubled Mindanao

BY DING CERVANTES

CLARK FREEPORT - The Philippines has signed a \$202.04 million (Y21.9 billion) loan agreement with Japan for road network development projects in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

The agreement was signed at the 8th High Level Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation held here last Tuesday.

"This involves the construction, rehabilitation, and improvement of 176.6 km of roads linking the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to the trade centers of Mindanao," Finance Sec. Carlos Dominguez III told reporters.

Dominguez said "our

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## BCDA cites Japanese gov't support to Build Build Build

CLARK FREEPORT - The prime mover of the government's Build Build Build Program has acknowledged the support of the Japanese government.

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has recognized the support of the Japanese government to the ambitious infrastructure program of the Duterte administration.

PAGE 6 PLEASE



Dizon

# GMA mulls mass transit system for Pampanga

By ASHLEY MANABAT

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO - If all goes well, Pampanga may soon have its mass transit system as part of the government's bid to decongest Metro Manila and spread development to the provinces.



Arroyo

This was gleaned in a meeting Tuesday after former President and now House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was briefed by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on an ongoing study for the proposed Pampanga Mass Transit System (PMTS).

In her Facebook post on Wednesday, Arroyo said she will help in the

PAGE 6 PLEASE



**AQUA PLANET.** The only water themepark in the Philippines to host the World's Largest Swimming Lesson for the second time. Some 1,800 students including indigenous tribes and PWDs joined the event. PHOTO BY NING CORDERO

## PHL's top biz groups back P10-K hike in teachers' pay

**But seek financial prudence to avoid collapse**

CLARK FREEPORT -- The country's top business and private groups, led by the Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), have issued a

joint statement supporting the demand of public school teachers for a P10,000 pay hike, but asked Pres. Duterte and the teachers to "phase

the increase over time."

The groups warned that "there are numerous examples of economic collapse that trace to fiscal imprudence — un-

managed salary increases and poorly targeted subsidies. The most recent and very visible one is Venezuela."

PAGE 6 PLEASE

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# Leave talking to DFA, DND

BY DING CERVANTES

CLARK FREEPORT -- Sen. Richard Gordon called on government officials yesterday to "refrain from making statements about the sinking of the Filipino fishing boat off Recto Reef and leave the talking to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Defense."

"Too many officials speak-

ing, especially if they are not in sync with one another, may only weaken the country's position on the incident, where the 22 crew of the Filipino fishing boat were left in peril of the sea when their boat sank after being hit by a Chinese fishing boat near Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea last June 9," he said in a statement.

He said "cabinet officials who are not part of the nego-



**Gordon**

tiations should refrain from speaking or making statements about the incident. Let us leave the negotiations regarding the incident to the DFA, the DND and possibly the OSG."

"I think the President is already talking through the DFA, hence, the diplomatic protest. Do not force the President to talk more. The President can't be tied to a corner dahil kung iba ang lal-

abas sa investigation at taliwas siya sa sinabi niya, hindi na niya mababawi," he said.

The Filipino fishing boat was rammed by a Chinese vessel around midnight of June 9. When the Filipino fishing boat sank, its 22 Filipino crew were left floundering in the water for about two or three hours before they were eventually rescued by Vietnamese fishermen at around 3 a.m. the following day.

## Fishers want Recto Bank row settled peacefully



Ambassador Elmer G. Cato trains his scope on areas of conflict from the rooftop of the Philippine embassy in Tripoli. **FB PHOTOGRAPH**

## Press group hails designation of ex-newspaperman as ambassador

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CLARK FREEPORT – The Pampanga Press Club (PPC) has welcomed the announcement of Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. that President Duterte has approved the appointment of Elmer G. Cato as Philippine Ambassador to Libya.

With the rank of Chief of Mission Class 2, Cato was Chargé d'Affaires and Head of Mission in Baghdad, Iraq another conflict zone for three years, at the height of the terrorist bombings by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Into his first week in Baghdad, Cato survived a suicide car bombing of the hotel he was staying in that left six dead and more than a dozen wounded. That attack was claimed by ISIS in 2015.

He was recalled in 2018 by former Foreign Affairs Secretary Allan Peter Cayetano and served as assistant Foreign Affairs Secretary for Public Diplomacy.

Cato was serving in Washington DC when he volunteered to go to Baghdad.

Early this year, he volunteered to go to Tripoli.

Cato was a former overseas worker who was a reporter in Saudi Arabia and an editor in Jakarta, Indonesia.

He served with the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York from 2003 to 2010.

He is a recipient of the Gawad Mabini, one of the highest national decorations for Filipino diplomats, for initiating the transfer of DFA passport offices to shopping malls nationwide.

Cato, a most outstanding Kapampangan awardee, was a journalist from 1983 to 1998 and an esteemed member of the PPC, founded in 1949, which makes it among the oldest, if not the oldest, oldest press club in the country.

Cato's intensive background as a reporter and an OFW in the Middle East during his younger days gave him enough experience with his work as a diplomat.

The PPC said Locsin made the right move by recommending Cato to be designated ambassador as this would allow him to serve our OFWs in Libya better and expand relations

with other countries under his jurisdiction.

Cato, who developed a reputation as a fearless reporter often mingling with hardcore communists just to get a story right, had served in a crisis post in Baghdad and now in Tripoli where only few diplomats would want to go because of the grave risks they will be exposed to.

The ongoing conflict in Libya has already left almost 700 dead since April.

But Cato continues to be adamant as he insists on staying in Tripoli to look after the welfare of Filipinos there and remained steadfast in his responsibilities as an official of the Philippine government.

Locsin said Duterte gave him the okay to make Cato ambassador. "Should worse come to worst. Please refer to him as Ambassador Cato. No man more deserves the title. I asked the President and he said okay for it. If the embassy falls with him in it, I want it to be reported that the embassy fell with its ambassador," Locsin said on Twitter.

BY ERNIE B. ESCONDE

MARIVELES, Bataan -- A big group of fishermen here on Tuesday wanted the Recto Bank row settled peacefully favoring President Duterte's action but asked that the affected 22 fishing crew and the boat owner be assisted.

Dalisay Cruz, president of the Sisiman Fishing Association, said there was nothing wrong with the Chief Executive saying what happened was a small maritime incident and should not be blown out of proportion.

"Tama po kayo Mr. President, hindi natin kailangan makipaglaban. Ang lahat ng problema may solusyon kung makukuha sa mahinahon, magandang usapan," she said.

Cruz heads the fishing association in Barangay Sisiman in Mariveles composed of more than 50 big fishing boats and 700 fishermen.

She said that we are no match in firepower to China. "At kahit meron tayong gamit pandigma, pinaka-d-best na solusyon – pag-usapan muna bago pumunta sa tinatawag na digmaan. Mr. President, saludo ako sa mga sinasabi ninyo."

But as a boat owner, Cruz appealed to President Duterte to repair the damaged fishing boat. "Ipagawa ang kanilang panghanapbuhay nang hindi naman sila sumala sa oras dahil alam natin kung paano ang buhay ng isang manggingisa na doon sila humuhugot ng pampaaral, pagkain ng pam-

lya.

"Tulungan na lang na mai-bangon ang panghanapbuhay ng 22 tao na humuhugot sa sinasakyang nilang bangka. Kapag natulungan sila eh para na rin nating binuhay ang 22 pamilya na nangangailangan ng hanapbuhay," Cruz added.

Norbing Gaga-a, 63, also a fishing banca owner, said the affected fishing boat should be immediately repaired for the crews to be back to their livelihood.

"Talagang ganoon lang. Barko nagbabanggaan, ero-plano man saka tren. Humin-gi na lang ng tulong. Kapag nagawa ang bangka, makakapaghantapbuhay ulit," the old man said.

"Kung may magbibigay ng tulong, pasalamat dahil panibagong buhay ng bangka mo. Matuwa ka na kung mai-pagawa ang bangka mo," Gaga-a said.

Ramil Corpin, a crew of a fishing boat, said they were preparing to leave to fish at Commodore which pass by Recto Bank.

He said that isdang bato like lapu-lapu and talakitok are caught in the "bahura" of Recto Bank while through the payao they catch yellow pin and tulingan in Commodore

"Tulungan na lang dahil malaki na-damage," Corpin answered when asked of the affected crews and the damaged fishing boat.

Another fishing boat crew, Jeffrey Areglo, made the same appeal.

## Drug suspect killed in buy-bust

BY ARMAND M. GALANG

CABANATUAN CITY - A man included in the local police drug watchlist was killed in a buy-bust operation in Barangay Dicarma here at around 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, police said.

Col. Ponciano Zafra, city police chief, identified the fatality as Patricio Azurin, resident of the said place.

Zafra said the buy-bust operation was conducted, in co-

ordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) upon confirmation of the suspect's illicit activities.

The suspect, however, drew a .9mm pistol and fired at the undercover policeman, forcing operatives to fire back, he said.

Azurin died instantly. Investigators reportedly recovered from the suspect the gun, 12 sachets of shabu, the P500 marked bill and other drug paraphernalia.

# THINK GREEN



Bank deposit mo, protektado!

## 17th Depositor Protection and Awareness Week

June 16-22, 2019

**Bank deposit mo, protektado!**

leads the nation in celebrating the

Deposits are insured by PDIC up to P500,000 per depositor

## Messages



My warmest greetings to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) as it celebrates its 56th Anniversary and spearheads the observance of the 17th Depositor Protection and Awareness Week (DPAW).

The PDIC ensures our nation's financial stability through deposit insurance that enables depositors to grow and contribute to our national economy. The corporation's efforts to strengthen the mandatory insurance coverage system and maintain confidence in our banking institutions are indeed commendable.



RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ DUTERTE  
President  
Republic of the Philippines

MARIA LEONOR G. ROBREDO  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Republic of the Philippines

May this milestone inspire the organization to uphold excellence and transparency as it continues to implement initiatives that safeguard the public from illegal schemes and machinations. Let this occasion strengthen your resolve to implement innovative services in support of Presidential Proclamation No. 358, which aims to impart greater awareness on depositor protection through the annual DPAW.

Your efforts to promote a stable banking system is important in bringing our country to greater heights. Together, let us take great strides towards our goal of building a progressive and inclusive Philippines.

I wish you a successful event.



CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ  
Secretary  
Department of Finance

I commend the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) for diligently observing the Depositor Protection and Awareness Week. This is the 17th year we are observing this event and the PDIC's enthusiasm for reaching out to the broader public has not waned.

In our efforts to combat poverty, we have continued to bring together communities and partners under our flagship advocacy program, Angat Buhay. Through this initiative, we are able to link generous contributors with small-to-medium enterprises in our partner communities throughout the country. While we are able to support 176 communities nationwide, we are well aware that a lot more still needs to be done.

This is why we are grateful to organizations like yours who continue to provide security to investments. Your commitment towards the protection of our people's finances provides a sense of peace and gives them courage to entrust their future to our institutions. We hope that this year's convention will be an avenue of advancement and innovation and a catalyst for the promotion of inclusive growth towards the betterment of the lives of our people.

Congratulations for 56 years of service, PDIC! May you have a meaningful celebration and a productive DPAW.



BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO  
Governor  
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Congratulations to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) on the celebration of its 56th anniversary and the 17th Depositor Protection and Awareness Week (DPAW) on 16-22 June 2019.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the PDIC share the common goal of financial stability and consumer protection and together we strive to achieve this through our long-term cooperation as well as our consultative approach with all stakeholders concerned.

Indeed, we have achieved much in pursuit of our goal over the years. However, we must be mindful of evolving customer needs and preferences, technological advances, and volatilities in the global economy. Thus in this rapidly changing financial environment, sustained vigilance, constant innovation and stronger partnerships are the way forward.

In the face of these challenges, it is important not to lose focus on what matters - the sustained protection for our customers and their hard-earned savings. This year's theme, "Bank Deposit Mo, Protektado!" is, therefore, a powerful statement that assures the public that our banking system is worthy of their trust and patronage.

As the PDIC reflects on more than five decades of service to our country and the future, we in BSP join you in pursuing a financial and banking system that is stable, future-ready, and steadfast in its commitment in fortifying the public's trust in our institutions.

Again, congratulations and more power!



ROBERTO B. TAN  
President and CEO  
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation

This year's DPAW theme, "Bank deposit mo, protektado!", also our official corporate tagline, amplifies the role of PDIC as a financial safety net and is a constant reminder to depositors that the money they deposit in banks is safe and secure. Our brand promise is the seal of protection to depositors and is meant not only to encourage people from all walks of life, both banked and unbanked, to deposit in banks but also to assure the public that entrusting banks with their money is a means to achieve individual financial security, promote financial inclusion, and contribute to a stronger banking system and a robust economy. We continue to promote our advocacy focused on inspiring people to save wisely in banks through financial literacy because we believe that an informed and responsible depositor is a protected depositor.

The observance of DPAW fittingly culminates on the 56th anniversary of the PDIC and we affirm to work tirelessly to protect depositors' hard-earned money through deposit insurance complementing this with our advocacy to encourage more Filipinos to save to truly fulfill the covenant: "Bank deposit mo, protektado!"

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### 7 HABITS OF A WISE SAVER

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# Be a Wise Saver

- 1) Know your bank
- 2) Know your bank products
- 3) Know your bank's services and fees
- 4) Keep your bank records safe and updated
- 5) Transact only inside the bank with authorized bank personnel except when bank is authorized by BSP to solicit deposits outside bank premises
- 6) Be informed about PDIC deposit insurance
- 7) Be cautious

# Editorial

**It has been 9 years and 7 months  
since the Ampatuan Massacre.  
Still, No Justice.  
No end to the weeping.  
No stopping to the raging.**

## Franchise call

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists of the Philippines hails and stands fully in support of the call by close to 1,000 actors, directors, writers, musicians, composers, cinematographers and other members of the television and film industry to the incoming House of Representatives of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress to prioritize the refiling and passage of the bill renewing the franchise of broadcast network ABS-CBN.

There is, indeed, every reason to worry that the failure of the lower chamber of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress to act on the bill renewing the network's franchise had everything to do with President Rodrigo Duterte's constant threats to block the renewal out of an alleged sour deal over political advertisements.

While not overly optimistic, we do join our creative brethren in hoping the men and women of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress might prove to be of better mettle. It is after all completely possible that, given the sorry nature of Philippine politics and this president's undisguised disdain for critical media, sycophancy might rule the day.

Should that happen, though, we foresee that the loss of one of the country's major sources of news, education and information may stir up a storm that this government may not withstand.

After all, as the open letter signed thus far by 925 members of the film and TV industry points out, with 21 percent of our people barely surviving on P125 or even less a day, the communal television set, whether in the sari-sari stores of informal settler communities or the living rooms of homes that generously allow neighbors to watch through open doors and windows is one of, if not their only, respite from the daily grind.

We can only imagine – and shudder – at the possible consequences of taking this away from them.

Indeed, the House of Representatives of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress would do well to prioritize the passage of the bill renewing ABS-CBN's franchise.

For one, it would be interesting to see whether Duterte will have the guts to veto an approved franchise renewal bill. For another, lawmakers just might be spared the people's wrath should he make good on his threat.

(NUJP statement hailing 1,000 artists' call to renew ABS-CBN franchise, 19 June 2019)



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# Opinion



acaesar.blogspot.com

**Zona Libre**

**Bong Z. Lacson**

## Kapitan Gigil

TWENTY-ONE YEARS ago this June 24, I wrote in pain. In grief. In rage. The man I dearly loved as a second father was killed. Executed in gangland fashion. In a most dastardly act.

Ricardo Velasquez Serrano, regional executive director of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon was shot through the heart while his car was caught in an early morning traffic jam along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City.

*Kapitan Gigil* to us close to him, Serrano as director of the then Department of Public Information initiated the professionalization and strengthening of the ranks of media persons, siring – along with me as co-proponent – the Central Luzon Media Association in 1978, being godfather to the Pampanga Press Club and the Angeles City Press and Radio Club, and esteemed adviser to all other provincial press groups in the region.

With the media, KG embarked on an "anti" campaign against the perceived scourges of Central Luzon, notching one accomplishment after another.

Like blasting more than 300 illegal fishpond dikes in 1978-1979, preceding by 20 years the Oplan Bilis Daloy of the Philippine National Police that also cleared the region's rivers by blasting dikes.

Like the operations against jueteng in Pampanga in partnership with the then Presidential Task Force Against Illegal Gambling that resulted in the total overhaul of the whole police hierarchy in the region sometime in 1979.

Like closing down polluting firms – Pasudeco in Pampanga, United Pulp and Paper in Bulacan, and the Bataan Pulp and Paper Mills.

Like campaigning vigorously against illegal logging in Nueva Ecija and Zambales, naming names that were sacred in those days: Marcos and Romualdez.

For that last one, he was banished to Southern Philippines.

In 1995, he returned to Central Luzon this time as DENR director.

And it was rather uncanny that he was again fighting the same demons he fought before his unceremonious exile from the region.

Serrano was in the thick of a relentless campaign against illegal logging in Nueva Ecija as well as pollution in Pampanga and Bulacan caused by tanneries and alcohol plants when he was killed.

Shortly before his ambush, Serrano had worked for the closure of the Central Luzon Fermentation and Industrial Corp. in Apalit, Pampanga which had been blamed for the pollution of rivers in Pampanga and Bulacan.

At the time of the serving of the closure order, *Philippine Star*'s Ding Cervantes was hit by pellets when a security guard's shotgun "accidentally went off." The alcohol plant was finally shut down a year after Serrano's killing.

I spoke in pain. In grief. In rage. At a memorial service of Pampanga newsmen for Serrano in 2000. "It is hard to accept that the government to which Serrano dedicated his outstanding career as government executive could just sweep his murder into the dustbin.

*The Voice* publisher-editor Ody Fabian, now also dead, talked then of how Serrano "impacted in us the highest standards of principled journalism, the values of good governance, and love for Mother Earth which we, in turn, should nurture among the next generation not only of journalists but of Kapampangans."

"That the death of Serrano, a dedicated and committed government servant has remained unsolved to this day is a mockery of our justice system," so said Fabian then.

Today, I write in pain. In grief. In rage. Twenty-one years after the crime, Serrano's murder has remained unsolved.

## TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

### Luis Taruc is born in Santa Monica, San Luis, Pampanga

ON JUNE 21, 1913, Luis Taruc, son of a corn farmer and fish vendor, a political figure, peasant leader during the agrarian unrest of the 1930s, and leader of the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon or HUKBALAHAP, was born in Santa Monica, San Luis, Pampanga.

Luis attended primary school at age 8 in a public school in San Miguel, Bulacan. At fifteen, he attended high school in Tarlac City. He attended the University of Manila for two years, studying medicine and law, but no longer able to afford the expenses, returned home without getting a degree to set up a tailor shop with his brother.

As a teen he was inspired by the stories of the Katipuneros who had fought for independence and for agrarian reform against Spain. Certain people within his home village and province came to regard him as the incarnation of the prominent Katipunan leader Felipe Salvador. He was influenced by Pedro Abad Santos, a Marxist, whom Luis regarded as a true socialist. In 1935, Taruc joined the Filipino Socialist Party led by Abad San-

tos in 1935.

In 1941, right after the Japanese invasion, Taruc joined the groups of Communist guerrillas operating in central Luzon led by Crisanto Evangelista. After the capture and execution of Evangelista and other prominent guerrilla leaders (January-March 1942), Taruc brought together all these groups of resistance under the name of HUKBALAHAP or Huk. Following a week-long organizing conference, the newly formed Huk organization selected four of their leaders (Castro Alejandrino, Felipe Culala, Bernardo Poblete, and Luis Taruc) to become the Huk Military Committee. The Military Committee was at the apex of Huk structure and was charged to direct the guerrilla campaign and to lead the revolution that would seize power after the war. Luis Taruc was elected to head the committee, and became the first Huk commander, "El Supremo".

Under his leadership the Huks became the most important strength of armed resistance against the Japanese occupiers, organized in autonomous squads who practiced an effective fight guerrillas,

taking advantage of the knowledge of the land.

In 1946, Taruc was elected to the Philippine House of Representatives as a member of the Democratic Alliance, led by Sergio Osmeña. He and five other elected Democratic Alliance candidates opposed the constitutional amendment that would give American businessmen parity rights with Filipinos in exchange for US rehabilitation funding. In particular, Luis opposed the Bell Trade Act, the Parity Amendment to the Constitution, and the Military Bases Agreement. To secure the majority necessary to pass the amendment, President Manuel Roxas arranged for Taruc and the other oppositional Democratic Alliance members ejected from office by the Commission on Elections on grounds that they committed election fraud and terrorism.

Taruc went underground in late 1946, following failed negotiations with President Roxas, and the Huks soon numbered 10,000 armed fighters.

Subsequent negotiations with President Elpidio Quirino in June and August 1948 also failed. By the presidential elec-



**Halo-halo**  
Ding Cervantes

## 'Earth's poles will switch'

MARIAN RESEARCHERS could well agree that, based on revelations of modern-day mystics, the "last times" (not the end of the world) are here. Internet's YouTube may seem so unbiblical for its modernity, but its true-to-life footages confirm unfolding prophecies of recent decades, climate change being one of them. A growing number of its channels compete with actual footages of unusual weather, geographical aberrations, biological conundrums. Just recently, scientists have also confirmed that the world's axis has gone awry.

Consider this warning from the Blessed Virgin Mary a few years ago, as conveyed to mystic Pedro Regis of Anguerra, Brazil: "The poles will switch and the earth will undergo major transformations. All living beings will suffer."

"I would ask you to be strong and in all things, imitate My son Jesus. You are not alone. Bend your knees, and seek your strength in the Lord."

"Great sufferings for My poor children will come from water and fire. There will be gaps in the magnetic field of the earth, and this will cause disequilibria in the life of humans and animals."

"A sudden displacement of the Poles will bring suffering on the Earth, the Sun, and its surroundings. I ask you to do the will of God, and stay far from sin... what I say should be taken seriously."

"The moving of the poles, will change life on Earth, and my poor children will live moments of distress... I love you, and I come from Heaven to help you. Listen to me. Do not let the devil, take you away from the truth."

"The earth will shake, and abysses will appear. My poor children will carry a heavy cross. The earth will lose its equilibrium, and frightening phenomena will appear. I suffer because of what awaits you."

In my last column, I said I would also provide quotes on the Chastisement as prophesied through mystics in the recent decades. It would seem that the Chastisement would result from a direct intervention of God via a comet.

St. Anna-Maria Taigi (1769-1837): "God will ordain two punishments: one, in the form of wars, revolutions and other evils, will originate on earth; the other will be sent from Heaven (Comet). There will come over all the earth an intense darkness, lasting three days and three nights. Nothing will be visible, and

the air will be laden with pestilence, which will claim principally but not exclusively, the enemies of religion. During those three days of darkness, artificial light will be impossible; only blessed candles will burn and will afford illumination."

"He, who out of curiosity, opens his window to look out or leaves his house, will fall dead on the spot. During those three days of darkness, the people should remain in their homes; pray the Rosary and asking God for mercy."

"On this terrible occasion, so many of these wicked men, enemies of His Church and of their God, shall be killed by Divine scourge; that their corpses around Rome will be as numerous as the fish which a recent inundation of the Tiber had carried into the city. All the enemies of the Church, secret as well as known, will perish over the whole earth, during that universal darkness, with the exception of some few, whom God will convert. The air shall be infected with demons, which will appear under all sorts of hideous forms."

Even Padre Pio (1887-1968) was given a vision of the Chastisement, so that he said the following: "Pray! Make reparation! Be fervent and practice mortifications. Great things are at stake! Pray... Men are running towards the abyss of Hell in great rejoicing and merry-making, as though they were going to a masquerade ball or the wedding feast of the devil himself! Assist me in the salvation of souls. The measure of sin is filled! The day of revenge, with its terrifying happenings is nearer than you can imagine! And the world is sleeping in false security! The Divine Judgment shall strike them like a thunderbolt! These godless and wicked people shall be destroyed without mercy, as were the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah of old. Yes, I tell you, their wickedness was not as great as that of our human race today."

tions of 1949, the Huks had abandoned electoral politics in favor of armed insurgency.

The Huks controlled most of central Luzon, the "rice basket" of the Philippines, including two provincial capitals, by 1950. Their motto, "a democratic peace, or martyrdom". In the Politburo meeting of December 1949 to January 1950, the Huks were reorganized as the HMB, "Hukbo Mapagpalaya ng Bayan", or "People's Army of Liberation", with Luis as a Politburo Supervisor (PBS) for the Party's Regional Committee, in the Zambales Mountains.

By November 1950, Luis was removed from his post of command entirely. By then, the Huks had 15,000 armed men, and the country was embroiled in a "miniature civil war", with ambushes on the major highways common.

President Quirino assigned Ramon Magsaysay, minister of national defense, to combat the Huk insurgency. On October 18, 1950, Magsaysay captured the Secretariat, including the general secretary Jose Lava, following the earlier capture of the Politburo in Manila. Magsaysay attracted peasant support by reforming the Army and Constabulary. Af-

ter the 1951 Central Committee meeting, a policy of "preservation and conservation of strength...for a long and bitter struggle" was adopted, and Luis departed with a group of ninety men and seven women, for the Sierra Madre Mountains. The latter part of 1952 was spent hiding in the Mount Arayat area.

In January 1953, Luis was suspended from the Politburo and Secretariat for his "Call for Peace". On 10 February 1954, Manuel Manahan and Benigno Aquino, Jr., appointed as President Ramon Magsaysay's representatives, met with Luis Taruc. After four months of negotiations, Taruc surrendered unconditionally to the government on May 17, 1954, effectively ending the Huk rebellion.

On June 15, 1954, Luis met with President Magsaysay and General Eulogio Balao at Camp Murphy, where Luis agreed to a trial.

Taruc's trial started in August 1954. He pleaded guilty to rebellion, "in the spirit of my agreement with the president", and sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment, plus as "huge fine". From 1956 to 1958, Luis was again put on trial for the execution of Feliciano Gar-

diner, Japanese occupation governor of Tarlac, for which he was found guilty and sentenced to four life sentences. His petition to President Diosdado Macapagal for executive clemency and amnesty to political prisoners in exchange for support for the President's social welfare program was ignored.

Taruc was later pardoned by President Ferdinand E. Marcos on September 11, 1968. After his release, he continued to work for Agrarian reforms. His struggle on behalf of the poor farmers persuaded local and national leaders to strengthen the legal rights of farm workers and led to a more equitable distribution of farm land.

In his later year's Taruc claimed to have never been a real communist, but rather always advocated Christian democratic socialism; he supported land reform strengthening the rights of local, small farmers over corporations and hereditary feudal elite.

Luis Taruc died of a heart attack on May 4, 2005 in St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City at the age of 91. Many political figures went to Luis Taruc's wake to pay respect and give support to his family.



**Napag-uusapan Lang**  
Felix M. Garcia

## Salikutan

BALAKU mo sana akungmekayalak  
daka'la pala at e la mu bubulad  
ding king poema a kanakung belangkas  
at kaniti anti waring meki-angkas

Kapamilatan ku buri rang ipasiag  
Iting maliliaring tutung makakamas;  
at nung atin ku mang apingkil a sugat,  
ipanupaya yu agiang sobra kaplas.

Deting sablang bage kakung taladtaran  
tanggapan da't ali, pawa lang katutuan  
a makaparikil karing memanagal,  
miniambut, mesambut kanitang alalan;

Ngeni, ala nalu, sinalikut no ngan,  
pati alino ra, e mu na akit man;  
e anti kanita, simpli mung inuman  
o bertdey mung gulung e ra palampasan.

Kanitang panaun ning pamangampanya  
maralas atilu agiang nukarin pa,  
binyag, kasalan o magastus a fiesta  
daratang la agiang e ro' kinumbira;

Nung e man pera ing kekata yambag da,  
mamitbit lang alak a maki-lagyur ra;  
at nung den ala lang alak a darala,  
karing tindahan ken, pasali la keka

Pero ngeni agiang karing ating mete  
e no pupunta man banting makirame,  
at e anti iniang tatagal la abe  
agagawa reti ing makipaglame;

At detang korona a karelang babie  
bilang panalala king meangu na bie,  
king keraklan deti, nung nu'ra la ike  
e ra na balu man dening maki-bale.

Ngeni mo kumbiran king kekang okasyun  
o kaya paralan sulat imbitasyun,  
agiang numanu kang magbatbat king gabun  
e mo ayasahan kusa lang tumagun;

Kase, yari na pin naman ing eleksiyun  
e no' paigastus at maniayang panaun,  
ot e na la mu pin naman mo magdatun  
karing bale ra o king SM lumuyun?

Aba, nung makanian, atin lang matulid  
deting kekatamu, tatagal, lalapit  
lakuas ketang oras, a lipit lang lipit,  
a paniawad ta'lang saup ding masakit.

E ta'la pin pala, asisian nung bakit  
karing kandidatu la makatilalid,  
kanita ra la mu pin den apupusit  
uling kaibat, metung man e ta'ne akit.

At neng malapit na mung mika-alalan  
karin la lalto at pane daramdamian,  
a patitingapun luluyun king dahan,  
at antimo waring alang kapagalanan;

Ita ing oras a mayan lang lapitan  
at sobra ganaka karing mangailangan,  
pero kabud mipuk la king katungkuluan  
yapin ing panaun na ning salikutan!

Vhelle V. Garcia  
June 15, 2019  
United Arab Emirates

# GMA mulls mass transit system for Pampanga

FROM PAGE 1

implementation of the Megalopolis Plan in the province after she steps down from the House of Representatives on June 30.

A statement from her said the Megalopolis Plan seeks to make Pampanga the gateway to Asia through the development of cluster cities (agriculture, ecology, air transportation, and marine life) focusing on specific areas and technologies. One of the main components of the plan is to ensure an efficient, reliable and sustainable transportation system in and around Pampanga.

This was also the advocacy of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PamCham) as it pushes for more industrial sites in the province which will then be inter-connected through a road network.

Meanwhile, the study's team leader, Dr. Hussein Lidasan, pre-

sented the study which seeks to ascertain the viability of a mass transit system in the province and the appropriate low-carbon technology that would ensure an efficient intermodal transport system.

The project hopes to establish a transit system that will: 1) guarantee inclusive mobility and accessibility in the province; 2) provide connectivity to urban center, production areas, residential areas, commercial and industrial centers and institutional and services areas; 3) be anchored on clean technology for an environmentally sustainable province; and 4) be supported by smart technology system for efficient and reliable operation and efficient fare collection system.

Lidasan also said the study analyzed the traffic-generating land use of the province such as malls, schools and government agencies and

evaluated the major road networks to be connected by the mass transit system.

It also surveyed the existing transport systems by determining the volume count and passenger occupancy along the routes plied in Pampanga. It showed that among the routes that see the highest vehicle count are the Mabalacat City-San Fernando City and Lubao-San Fernando City routes.

Lidasan said value engineering/value analysis (VE/VA) was also conducted to figure out the alignment of the transport system needed.

"The VE/VA is an analysis wherein we will look at the best way of meeting the objectives without necessarily reducing the cost or increasing the cost, but to look at the value that will meet the objectives of our project," Lidasan said.

The VE/VA analysis

led to an alignment value proposition that will serve 16 municipalities and cities of Pampanga and support sustainable growth and development in the province as it takes into consideration high traffic volume and the Pampanga Megalopolis Plan.

## Alignment

Key considerations of the alignment include Clark, as one of the key development attractions in the province; the three possible major stations in Apalit, San Fernando, and Angeles; and the proposed Clark Railway Project.

The next steps of the study will focus on transport demand forecast, technology selection, key informant interviews and focus group discussions, and stakeholder consultations, he added.

The transport demand forecast, in particular, shall help the team determine the kind of mass transit system that

would best serve Pampanga.

"For example, nakita natin ang kailangan pala is more of a commuter line. Then that will either be LRT (light rail system) or a medium rail system. And it will accommodate approximately 400,000 to 750,000 people. If it is a feeder line, it would be a monorail or BRT (bus rapid transit)," Lidasan said.

He said a BRT system might be the most efficient option for Pampanga as it is the best system for a daily traffic demand of less than 400,000 person-trips per day.

This was also the im-

mediate solution being proposed by PamCham as it requires less capital and less time to implement.

The submission of the draft final report of the study is slated on the second week of October 2019, while the revised final report shall be submitted after the receipt of comments from the National Economic Development Authority and Department of Transportation.

It was also announced that findings and proposals shall be presented to the local government officials and relevant stakeholders of Pampanga on June 28.

## NEDA assures...

FROM PAGE 1

complishment of the projects under the masterplan will narrow down the disparity in the level of development of the regions.

"The idea of having infrastructure projects in the region is to diminish the inequality and to make the regions connected with each other," he said.

He added that such projects will connect the lagging regions with the leading ones and mainstream economy.

In line with this, the Philippines signed on Tuesday evening a loan agreement with the government of Japan for a \$202.04 million or Y21.9 billion loan for the road network development project in conflict affected areas in Mindanao.

-Ashley Manabat

## BCDA cites Japanese gov't support...

FROM PAGE 1

"This is one of the legacies that President Duterte will be leaving behind, the beginnings of the New Clark City and we have the Japanese government to thank a lot because they really have been supportive from the very beginning," BCDA president-CEO Vince Dizon said at the conclusion of the 8th High Level Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation here.

"Based on the discussions in the meeting, there will be more support coming to us. In fact, there's a joint venture between the BCDA and the Japan Overseas International Network for transport and urban development," he added.

Dizon said this freeport is one of the centerpiece of the administration's infrastructure program which has taken more than three decades for the area to really develop.

"I think we usually forget that in Luzon where close of 60 percent of Filipinos reside, there is only one metropolis, that is Metro Manila," he stressed.

Past governments have been unable to develop regions and areas outside of Metro Manila as new centers of growth

and that is why we included the development of Clark and Subic because their strategic nature becomes really the centerpiece not just of the Build Build Build Program but also future developments later on," he said.

"With these, we really need a new metropolis to not just address the congestion of Metro Manila but also to spread growth outside," Dizon added.

-Ashley Manabat

## PHL's top biz groups back P10-K hike in teachers' pay

FROM PAGE 1

The joint statement seeking "financial prudence" in the pay hike was issued the other day by FEF jointly with the Action for Economic Reforms (AER), Makati Business Club (MBC), Management Executives of the Philippines (MAP) and the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex).

"We, the undersigned business and professional organizations, believe that better education is a top national priority. We need it to make the Philippines and Filipinos more competitive, secure and productive. We recognize, appreciate, and value public school teachers as central to this goal, aside from being important leaders of our communities, including during election time. They deserve to be compensated better and given better training opportunities and tools, and we join other sectors in making that a goal," the statement said.

It said that "In light of recent demands for an immediate P10,000 a month increase, however, we ask President Duterte and the teachers

to phase this over time."

The statement gave three reasons to back the groups' request for phased salary hike.

It cited "fairness and equity of public school teachers' pay compared to other civil servants, and the recent increases in their pay."

### Sustainability

The statement also noted "fiscal affordability and sustainability, and the competing demands for other essential public expenditures. These include other parts of the education sector itself, the health sector, social spending such as Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), and investments in hard infrastructure. All these are needed to lift our people out of poverty, broaden and enrich the middle where our school teachers belong."

The third reason cited the "heavy economic and social effects, such as inflation, low growth, and unemployment, that go with spending beyond our means. This hits the poorest hardest."

The groups also said in their statement that "on the issue of market competitiveness, in 2019, Teacher 1 (entry

level salary grade 11) earned 58 percent more than their private school counterpart."

An Associate Professor (salary grade 23) earned 109 percent more. According to the regional labor force survey, as early as 2016, public school teachers received on average 71 percent more than private school teachers nationally. This premium ranges anywhere from a low of 34 percent in Cordillera Autonomous Region to a high of 158 percent in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao," the statement also noted.

### Briones

Education Secretary Leonor Briones acknowledges salaries of public school teachers have 'overtaken' those of private schools and debunks characterizations that they are 'the most pitiful and lowest paid profession.' This is especially so in rural areas as the salary of public school teachers is standard nationwide. Compared to private teachers' pay which is determined by local cost of living in the area they are working," the groups also observed.

The statement noted that "these market comparisons are important grounding — to deviate markedly from such would precipitate demands of one group of public servants vs. whoever is the current highest in a wage spiral that could lead to fiscal unsustainability. It could even spill over to private pay demands and inflation pressures."

"Raising the disparity in pay between public and private school teachers would further fuel the migration of private school teachers to public schools and exert financial pressures on private schools whose tuition fees are regulated by government. Where public school teachers are disadvantaged compared to private school teachers is in the lack of training opportunities and tools like books, school supplies, and computers. There is also a lack of teachers and classrooms, resulting in big classes spread over the day in 'shifts.' These must be addressed to alleviate the burden of teachers and improve the quality of education" it said.

The groups also noted that "the macro im-

pact on the fiscal sector, the P150 B annual cost of the salary increase is roughly 1 percent of GDP."

### CCT

"To appreciate the magnitude of this, we note that the entire annual budget for the CCT program, which benefits 4.3 million households and promises to break inter-generational poverty, will cost less than half of this. The difficult-to-pass TRAIN 1 raised less than half of this," they said in the statement.

The statement also said "there is no identified recurring source of funding for this salary increase. As such, it will raise the national government annual fiscal deficit from 3 percent to 4 percent of GDP. The last time our fiscal deficit to GDP breached 4 percent was in 2002 and 2003, driving the country's credit ratings down by two rungs. This led to higher borrowing cost to both government and private sectors, and lower investments."

"If the gains in managing our economy recently affirmed by the upgrade to just below 'A' are put at risk, our public

school teachers will also suffer," it added.

In the statement, the groups commended "the efforts of the Secretaries of Finance, Education and Budget to improve the pay of our public school teachers while preserving the country's economic gains. And we fully endorse the proposal of fiscal and education authorities for moderated adjustments in pay which are phased, reflect recent salary adjustments made, benchmarked to the market and other civil service employee comparators, count the benefits of TRAIN 1 on their take home pay, and are matched by new revenue. This should allow approach to the sought-for P10,000 salary increase over time."

FEF has for its Board of Advisers, former Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Villata, former Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Dr. Gerardo Sicat, National Scientist Dr. Raul Fabella, and former World Bank resident representative Thomas Allen. The Foundation is led by its Board of Trustees composed of former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo.

-Ding Cervantes

## Sta. Monica Pawnshop, Inc.

### Notice of Public Auction

Date: May 30, 2019  
Time: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Address: B. Mendoza St. Sto. Rosario, CSFP, 2000  
Contact no: (045) 961-3540

#### Branches Covered:

Main : B. Mendoza St. Sto. Rosario, CSFP  
Branch 1: Unit H, Essel Commercial Bldg., Essel Park, Telebastagan, CSFP  
Branch 2: Emerald Business Center, MAH Dolores, CSFP  
Branch 3: Stall#118 Jumbo Jenra Mall MAH, Sindalan, CSFP  
Branch 4: No. 1 Maligaya St, Sindalan, CSFP  
Branch 5: Stall No.2, Santiago, San Vicente, Apalit, Pampanga  
Branch 6: Stall B2 Bldg. Bulaon Public Market Bulaon CSFP

#### (ALL UNREDEEMED LOANS GRANTED FROM MARCH 1 - 31, 2018 ARE ALREADY SUBJECT FOR AUCTION.)

Lahat ng mga nasangla magmula Pebrero 1 - 31, 2018 na hindi pa natutubos ay kasama na sa subasta sa Marso 29, 2019. Maaari niyo pa pong tubusin ang mga ito ng may karampatang interest at penalty hanggang sa Mayo 28, 2019.

### NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that HONEYLYN NOVELA DAVID, of legal age, Filipina, widow, resident of 4122 Jesus St., Pulungbulu, Angeles City and heir of REYNALDO S. DAVID who died intestate on April 16, 2019 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication on his estate, more particularly described as Cash Savings with BDO, Clark Branch before Notary Public Virgilio S. Lansang as per Doc No. 38, Page No. 5, Book No. 25, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: June 20, 27 & July 4, 2019

### NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of Spouses ROBERTO PANGILINAN and NELIA BADILLA PANGILINAN who died intestate on April 1, 2013 in Mabalacat City and May 12, 2017 in Tarlac City, respectively, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Special Power of Attorney on their estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 2, Blk. 7 of the cons. & subd. plan Pcs-03-000868, being a portion of cons. Lots 624-A & 624-B (LRC) Psd-60999 and Lot 228, Mabt. Cad. LRC Rec. No. ) situated in the Mun. of Mabt., Prov. of Pamp., and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 569376-R, before Notary Public Roseller B. Rodriguez as per Doc No. 616, Page No. 124, Book No. 87, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: June 20, 27 & July 4, 2019

### NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of EMELITA BATIO-AN RIVERA who died intestate on February 4, 2019 in Mabalacat City, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on her estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (1-E-1-A-2, Plan No. Psd-03-221668, portion of Lot 1-E-1-A, Psd-03-212215) located at Brgy. Camachiles, City of Mabalacat, Pampanga, Island of Luzon and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 045-2017004172, before Notary Public Ponciano V. Dela Cruz Jr. as per Doc No. 327, Page No. 81, Book No. XIII, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: June 20, 27 & July 4, 2019

### NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of FE O. DABUET who died intestate on February 11, 2004 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on her estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 11, Block 9 of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-31390 Sheet 2, being a portion of Lot 647. Angeles Cadastre, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Record No. 124) with improvements existing thereon, situated in the Barrio of Malabanias, City of Angeles and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 103867, before Notary Public Arnel D. Berato as per Doc No. 182, Page No. 38, Book No. II, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: June 20, 27 & July 4, 2019

### NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of RENE A. MOLINA who died intestate on July 26, 2018 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on his estate, more particularly described as parcels of land, to wit:

Property No.	TCT No.	Lot & Block	Location
1	124471	Lot 1, Blk. 3	San Jose, Angeles City
2	186744	Lot 19, Blk. 36	Sapalibutad, Angeles City
3	103797	Lot 21, Blk. 139	Poblacion, Muntinlupa City
4	004-2017011526	Lot 6, Blk. 498	Brgy. Talayan, Quezon City
5	004-2017011527	Lot 4, Blk. 2	Brgy. Capitol Hills, Quezon City
6	168069	Lot 8, Blk. 498	Brgy. Talayan, Quezon City

before Notary Public Jerome T. Paras as per Doc No. 56, Page No. 9, Book No. XIII, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: June 20, 27 & July 4, 2019

### Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRY Province of Pampanga Mabalacat City

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. 9048 a notice is hereby served to the public that RONNIE V. MANALANG has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from "RONIMO" to "RONNIE" in the birth certificate of RONIMO MANALANG who was born on April 12, 1970 at Mabalacat, Pampanga and whose parents are ROMULO MANALANG and GLORIA VARGAS.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this office not later than seven (7) days after the completion of the publication period.

VICTOR TERRY A. MEDINA  
CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR

FOR THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR:  
Glenda A. Jarin  
Administrative Officer III

Punto! Central Luzon: June 13 & 20, 2019



## Spotlight Arci Pineda

# Ina Raymundo's daughter Erika: The next 'Sabado Nights' girl

INA RAYMUNDO became more famous when she did the "Sabado Nights" girl commercial of San Miguel Beer in 1995.

After resigning as the Sabado Nights girl, she was 19 then, two decades ago, now she's 43 and remained sexy.

Ina has been vocal about bequeathing the "Sabado Nights girl" tag to her 17-year-old daughter in her previous interviews.

"That's my wish also, and she wants to also."

"Siempre, pag nasa tamang edad na siya, I would love her to be the next 'Sabado Nights girl.'"

Ina said that she never thought of herself as "the only Sabado Nights girl."

And should it happen another young girl would be named as the new Sabado Nights girl, Ina would be supportive of it.

She said, "I don't really think of it that way na parang, 'Kailangan sa akin lang yung title na Sabado Nights girl.'

"But yes, if ever na may next Sabado Nights girl, I wish it's my daughter Erika. That would be so nice."

Asked if she can think of another celebrity to pass on the "Sabado Nights girl" tag, Ina named Julia Barretto without batting an eyelash.

She explained, "Bagay din sa kanya e. She's a fun-loving girl. Kailangan fun-loving e."

Ina expressed her gratitude to the beer brand for always having her on their important events.

"They've been so good to me and also I really believe in their core belief na 'Walang Iwanan.'

"Every time I'm part of their events, I feel na parang, 'Wow!' Feeling ko, I'm back in my prime age.

"Feeling ko talaga nababalik ako dun sa Sabado Nights na era, na sobrang fun, I feel good, I feel young, I feel energetic, and it just feels so happy."

"I'm just so happy na I'm part of this, 'Walang Iwanan.'"

Ina also opened up about her daughter's plans of joining the entertainment industry.

The Kapamilya actress said her daughter is still focused on finishing her high school studies before pursuing a showbiz career.

She narrated, "Meron na siyang plano, open siya pero siyempre yung pag-aaral niya ang priority niya kasi high school pa lang siya."

Ina later added, "May mga go-see na siya na pinapapunta, and she can sing also, e."

Apart from joining showbiz, Ina's daughter also voiced out her plans of joining a beauty pageant.

Ina said, "Siyá yung may gusto, interesado din siya. Why not?

"I will not stop my daughter from doing what she wants to do."

Ina, however, hopes that her daughter would learn how to manage her time first before entering the entertainment business.

She said, "Kailangan niya munang matutunan mag-juggle ng time para mapagsabay niya yung pag-aaral and yung demands ng showbiz."

"Kailangan pag nag-commit siya, she has to commit 100 percent."

"Hindi siya puwedeng yung male-late sa work."

"Hindi siya puwedeng mag-disobey kapag may kailangang gawin."

"She has to follow rules. That's one thing I always tell her, 'You got to learn to follow rules.'

"Because I noticed, yung mga kabataan ngayon, they have a problem following rules."

"Because nakikita nila sa social media, meron silang voice, meron silang, 'I got to do this!'

"But no, you have to follow rules because you have bosses. May mga boss ka na kailangan mong sundin."

"So pag nag-commit ka, you have to commit 100 percent. Hindi puwedeng less."

Asked what her husband, Brian Portunak, thinks about their daughter joining showbiz, she answered, "He's very open-minded also, very cool."

□ □ □

STARSTRUCK'S pilot weekend showed the final audition of the show's Top 22 hopefuls. Hopefuls who will make it after the final audition will be part of StarStruck's Final 14.

GMA-7's original reality-based artista search StarStruck made its television comeback for its seventh season last Saturday, June 15.

The first two episodes, which aired over the weekend, showed the final audition round of 22 hopefuls before they were trimmed down to the StarStruck Final 14.

The StarStruck 7 council—composed of Heart Evangelista, Jose Manalo, and Cherie Gil—made their decision based on the final audition pieces of each hopeful.

Each hopeful was given the option of either singing or dancing in front of the council, but they were all required to tape their final acting audition piece.

In the end, seven hopefuls entered the StarStruck Final 14: Pamela Prinster, Carl Aquino, Abdul Rahman, Dani Porter, Angelic Guzman, Kim de Leon, and Gelo Agban.

Hosts Dingdong Dantes and Jennylyn Mercado helped in presenting the finalists.



Erika Poturnak



(R-L). DTI Zambales provincial officer Leonila Baluyut, Abenson manager Donald Lee, Olongapo Consumer Affairs Council president Robert Castillejo and Abenson store manager Robert Finseca lead the cutting and unvailing of 7th consumer corner at Harbor Point Mall, Subic Bay Freeport. **PHOTO BY JOHNNY R. REBLANDO**

## DTI opens Consumer Corner at Harbor Point

BY JOHNNY REBLANDO

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT - The Department of Trade and Industry Zambales office has set up its Consumer Corner, the seventh in the region, at the Abenson's Appliances in Harbor Point Mall here.

DTI provincial officer Leonila Baluyut the Consumer Corner is a DTI program in partnership with business establishments that aims to strengthen and promote consumer welfare and protection, by providing an information desk with readily accessible DTI consume-related information materials.

Donald Lee, manager of Abenson, thanked the Zambales DTI for choosing their site. "Definitely it is a milestone for us in putting up the provincial office's first Consumer Corner here in Abenson," said Lee.

With the theme "Maging Matalino, Mapanuri at Malayang Mamimili," the Consumer Corner will also be opened at the Royal Duty Free Shop.

## FIRST IN PHL CSF delivers business permits via courier

THE CITY Government of San Fernando is the first Local Government Unit in the country to offer delivery service of business/mayor's permits through a courier.

This has been asserted by Business License and Permit Division (BLPD) Chief Joseph Garcia during a recent interview.

Garcia explained that in February last year, Mayor Edwin "EdSa" Santiago entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with 2Go Express Inc. through Resolution No. 2018-024.

Aside from the usual two-step processes in the issuance and renewal of business/ mayor's permits, the client will only need to fill out the shipment form and pay additional 120 pesos delivery fee to avail the courier service.

"We came up with this innovation to provide greater convenience to the transacting public. With this, the clients can save time, minimize transport expenses or avoid problem in looking for parking space by not going to the City Hall anymore,"

Garcia explained.

The city's initiative has been cited by the National Association of Business Permits & Licensing Officers (NABPLO) that now encourages more LGUs, particularly top business hubs in the Philippines like Paranaque City and Quezon City, to adopt the same practice.

Early this year, San Fernando's BLPD has also launched its newly improved and airconditioned Business One Stop Shop located at the City Hall Atrium. The waiting area can now accommodate up to 200 clients who also have access to free drinking water, coffee and light snacks.

In addition, with online business registration already at hand, the city government has tied up with the Development Bank of the Philippines for the implementation of online payment by 2020.

San Fernando, globally known as Most Business-Friendly City, is ISO 9001:2015 certified.

-CSFP-CIO

## To join TSU graduation march, transgenders wear lady barongs

BY DING CERVANTES

TARLAC CITY -- Six transgenders who were initially told to wear male attire for graduation at the Tarlac State University (TSU) were allowed to graduate Tuesday while wearing feminine-styled barong and matching slacks

TSU officials initially told the transgender students they would be given their diplomas but would not be allowed to march on stage unless they complied with the graduation dress code which was flesh-colored barong and black pants for men.

The transgender students made issue of this in media and on the eve of their graduation, TSU management said they would be allowed to march to the stage in female attire which, however, was limited to lady barong and matching slacks.

AB Communication graduate Ivern Doroteo Arcache, who was recently declared Queen of the Philippines 2019 in a gay pageant, said he complied with the new rule but changed to dress after receiving her diploma on stage.

On stage, Arcache generated applause from the audience when he also kissed TSU president Myrna Mallari.

Arcache said the change of rules for the graduating transgenders was victory for



Graduation photo of Doroteo.

them, but vowed to further fight for transgender "rights."

He also said that her changing to dress after receiving his diploma was to show support for another transgender, Emmanuel Jejomar Ferrer, an AB

English student who chose to wear a dress and was barred from joining the graduation march. The other transgenders also went on stage in lady barong and slacks to receive their diplomas.

## CSF holds annual LGBT pride walk

FERNANDINO members and advocates of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community marched along the city downtown streets on June 15, 2019 for the annual "Rainbow Walk

of Pride."

Wearing their sports-themed costumes, the participants brought with them their rainbow flags as they voiced out their call for equality and acceptance, in time for LGBT

June Pride Month.

The march was followed by a short program at Heroes Hall where a dance performance, Zumba, and runway walks were staged.

-CSFP-CIO





Harvest Festival of SM Foundation's Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan (KSK) Farmers' Training Program Batch 200 in Olongapo.

PHOTO BY MALOU DUNGOG

## 120 Olongapo farmer-grads thank SM Foundation, partners

BY MALOU DUNGOG

OLONGAPO CITY A total of 120 farmer-graduates in Olongapo under the SM Foundation's Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan (KSK) Farmers' Training Program Batch 200 expressed their sincerest gratitude to the Foundation and its partners for inculcating innovative farming methods that they can use in ensuring food for their table, they can share with their community, and will open doors for potential business opportunities.

Conducted recently at the SM City Olongapo, the graduation ceremony of the trainees was witnessed by representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Agriculture (DA), Technical Education for Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), City Agriculture Office, and partner Harbest Agribusiness.

Prior their graduation, farmer-participants harvested their high value

vegetable and fruit crops, some of which were cooked for their boodle fight lunch, while some were brought home to their respective families. Their produce include honeydew melon, upo, patola, tomatoes, sili, okra, pipino, ampalaya, sitaw, and kangkong, among others.

They also got the chance to be toured around the supermarket in SM City Olongapo to better know and appreciate the pricing and quality standards of products on the ground. With the sustainable farming techniques instilled in them, the Foundation hopes and encourages the farmers to continue to use this knowledge in order for them to produce high quality harvest not only for their families, but also to become suppliers for SM Markets in the future.

Rogelio Panganiban, a heavy equipment operator, said that he learned various ways to farm optimally which he would proudly share with his family and community.

Esmelinda Tombaga, a 55-year-old master teacher in the primary level, vowed to share her learnings from the program to her fellow teachers with the hopes that the knowledge can be further passed to the students. She also mentioned that she can use these innovative farming techniques in the school vegetable garden where she teaches.

Federico Flores, 68, conveyed his gratitude to the late Tatang Henry Sy, Sr., who began all the philanthropic works of the SM Group, including his legacy of helping those in need. He said that he would spread the word that one can farm by just using natural techniques and without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Since its inception in 2007, the KSK Farmers' Training Program has trained more than 23,000 farmers and still continues to accommodate more both from urban and rural communities.

## Japan-PHL sign \$202.04-M loan for roads in troubled Mindanao

FROM PAGE 1

discussions covered broad areas of Philippines-Japan sectoral cooperation including regional development, information and communications technology, energy, environment, public safety, disaster prevention, and peace building initiatives in Mindanao. Both sides also discussed the strategy for future cooperation and considering the Philippines will soon graduate to upper middle-income country status by end of this year or in 2020."

He said the Philippines and the Japanese delegations agreed on five points during the meeting.

First, he said, was "to maintain close coordination to resolve pending issues and revisit certain procedures in order to deliver fast and sure action towards achieving timelines."

"Second, we will work towards signing a supplemental loan for the ongoing Davao City Bypass Construction Project within this year and three more loan accords for the New Mactan Bridge

Construction Project in Cebu, the second phase of the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project, and second tranche for the first phase of the Metro Manila Subway Project," he said.

Dominguez said that third, "both countries will review the progress of the Philippine Railway projects that will be rolled out in cooperation with Japan and committed to continue consultation to accelerate implementation and to address all the challenges."

"Fourth, the Japan

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## 2 AC villages cleared of drugs

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CLARK FREEPORT – The ongoing campaign against illegal drugs in Angeles City has resulted in the clearing of two barangays and the seizure of some 240 grams of shabu.

This was the report made by Lt. Col. Alfredo Canlas, deputy director for operations of the Angeles City Police Office (ACPO) during the "News@Hues" media forum organized by the Pampanga Press Club in cooperation with Park Inn Hotel by Radisson Clark here last Tuesday.

Canlas said barangays Sto. Rosario and Virgen Delos Remedios in Angeles City are declared cleared of illegal drugs based on the parameters set by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

He said all illegal drug operations in Angeles City, from January 1 to June 16, are reported in a weekly meeting averaging 10 to 12 illegal drug operations per week and 10 to 12 persons are arrested.

During the same period, some 240 grams of shabu was seized with street value of P3,600 per gram, Canlas said.



Canlas

He said barangay affectations are classified as: slightly affected, moderately affected and seriously affected.

Six barangays are still seriously affected, Canlas said, like barangays Pulung Maragul, Balibago, Malabanas, Ninoy Aquino, Pandan and another village which he did not name.

He said all confiscated items are automatically turned over to the PNP crime laboratory for processing.

Canlas said there are six high value targets (HVTs) in Angeles City. He explained that HVT level one are barangay officials or active military

personnel while level two are elected officials like mayors, military officers and foreigners.

Meanwhile, Canlas said there are eyeing persons of interests in the ambush of Amsic Barangay Captain Ronnie "Totoy Bibo" Rogando, 41 last June 13 in Angeles City.

Canlas said as chair of Special Investigation Task Group Totoy Bibo, they have already identified certain personalities as persons of interest based on the ongoing investigation.

He said based on the CCTV footage from the 7-11 Convenience Store along Gueco Avenue in the city, the suspects were riding-in-tandem on board a motorcycle who waited for the victim at the store.

But failing to ambush him there, followed him in Villasol where the victim on board his Honda BRV was ambushed as he slowed down to a speed bump.

Canlas said Rogando is now out of danger but still recuperating in the intensive care.

The police officer said they are now discounting politics in the ambush of Rogando as the motive behind the slay attempt.

**WE TELL IT AS IT IS. WE GIVE YOU NEWS THAT'S STRAIGHT TO THE POINT**

International Cooperation Agency will conduct feasibility studies for the Dalton Pass East Alignment Alternative Road Project and Circumferential Road 3 Missing Link Project later this year," he said.

Dominguez said that lastly, "Japan affirmed its commitment to provide additional assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the most affected area in Marawi City."

Dominguez and Economic and Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia chaired the Philippine delegation while Dr. Hiroto Izumi, special adviser to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, led the Japanese delegation during the meeting.

Pernia said that NEDA has been "prioritizing more costly infrastructure projects under the Build-Build-Build program to level up the country's economic status."

"Big infrastructure projects such as Metro Manila Subway and North-South Commuter Railway aim to make the Philippines reach the upper middle-income sta-

tus by the end of 2019 or in 2020," he said.

He noted that "should the Philippines achieve the target of increasing its present economic status by the end of the year or in 2020, it will no longer be qualified for the Japanese Special Terms for Economic Partnership funding."

Pernia said that at present, there are 12 NEDA board-confirmed projects amounting to P1.6 trillion by the Japanese Government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

# Megaworld targets 30 townships, lifestyle communities by 2020

**These expansive new developments to cover around 2,000 hectares in Luzon and Mindanao**

MEGAWORLD, the country's largest developer of integrated urban townships and lifestyle communities, is set to launch six more townships this year until 2020. This will

bring the company's township portfolio to 30 by next year.

These new developments will cover an expansive land area of around 2,000 hect-

ares. Most of these are from new land acquisitions carried by Megaworld Group's land banking efforts during the last five years.

Five of these new expand-

sive townships and lifestyle communities are in Luzon, while one is in Mindanao.

"Currently, we have a little over 4,000 hectares of both developed and develop-

able land. By next year, we will increase our land ownership and land holding to more than 6,000 hectares as we continue to focus on our goal to expand to key growth areas in the provinces; help boost tourism, provide jobs, and further spur economic opportunities outside of Metro Manila," reveals Kevin L. Tan, chief strategy officer.

At present, Megaworld already has 24 townships and lifestyle communities spread across the country: Nine (9) in Metro Manila, which include Eastwood City, McKinley Hill, Forbes Town, McKinley West, Uptown Bonifacio, Newport City, Alabang West, Westside City, and Arcovia City; eight (8) in Luzon, which include Capital Town Pampanga, Eastland Heights, Twin Lakes, Southwoods City, Suntrust Ecotown, Maple Grove, Hamptons Caliraya, and Highland City; six (6) in the Visayas, which include The Mactan Newtown, Iloilo Business Park, Boracay Newcoast, The Upper East, Northill Gateway, and Sta. Barbara Heights; and one (1) in Mindanao, the Davao Park District.

The Megaworld Group is composed of mother company Megaworld Corporation and its subsidiaries Global-Estate Resorts, Inc. (GERI), Empire East Land Holdings, Inc. (EELHI), and Suntrust Properties, Inc.

-Press release



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