

Honest Aeta worker returns \$1K left behind at Clark airport

AN AETA utility worker at the Clark International Airport returned to authorities an envelope containing US\$1,000.00 left behind by a departing passenger on July 14.

Grace Laxamana, 42, said she noticed an envelope left unattended on one of the gang chairs at the second floor of the international

departure area while on duty at about 2:50 p.m.

The envelope contained ten pieces of US\$100 bills totaling \$1,000.00.

"I thought it was just play money and immediately took the envelope and turned it over to airport operations officer Raymund Salazar who examined the con-

tents. It turned out that the money was genuine," Laxamana said.

A closer review of the CCTV footage of departing travelers on the afternoon of July 14 showed one of the passengers dropping a white envelope while about to board Cebu Pacific flight 5371 bound for Singapore.

"We're proud of what

Ms. Laxamana did. Her honesty is even more glaring since what she found was an untraceable envelope. Her good deed is truly worthy of emulation by all airport employees," Jaime Melo, Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) president, said.

As of today, no one

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Grace Laxamana and the Benjamins she found. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NCC sports complex, gov't center finished by August

BY DING CERVANTES

CLARK FREEPORT -- Phase 1A of the New Clark City here, including the sports complex to be used for the Southeast Asian Games as well as the National Government Administrative Center (NGAC), is now 90 percent done and is expected to be fully completed by the end of August, the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) said yesterday.

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BIZ GROUPS URGE DUTERTE

Junk Security of Tenure bill

CLARK FREEPORT -- The Philippine Business Groups-Joint Foreign Chambers (PBG-JFC) issued yesterday a joint statement urging Pres. Duterte to veto the Security of Tenure (SOT) bill which they claimed is "redundant" and will have a negative impact on Philippine economy and the workers themselves.

The statement was issued by the Foundation

for Economic Freedom (FEF), in behalf of 12 local and foreign business groups in the country. FEF is led by its board of trustees composed of former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo, OBE, as chairman, and former Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo as vice-chairman.

The joint statement

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Mayor Edwin Santiago and Vice Mayor Jimmy Lazatin join school heads as they display copies of the big book during its launching at the Vista Mall on Wednesday. PHOTO BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CSF launches kids' book on disaster preparedness

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- A book which aims to increase disaster awareness among children was launched at the Vista Mall here on Wednesday in cel-

ebration of this year's National Disaster Resilience Month.

The big book, written in the spoken dialect of the children with an English translation, is entitled: "Limang Kuentu Bang Maging Alertu." It features five stories that

convey safety and disaster preparedness tips which are easily understood through colorful illustrations.

The book was authored by Jefferson David, illustrated by

PAGE 8 PLEASE



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DUE Model Unit Actual Photo

Delta vows to resolve issues on IP land titles

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO - Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda urged the Aeta leaders who trooped to the Provincial Capitol on Monday to strengthen their ties with the Provincial Government in raising their community concerns, amidst issues on land grabbing.

"Pumunta po kayo sa opisina ko kung may mga concerns kayo. Hindi ninyo naman kailangan idaan sa rally. Bukas ang tanggapan ng Kapitolyo para sa inyo," Governor Delta said.

He bared this during a dialogue with the Aeta Community Leaders held at the Capitol Compound here.

Puning's income

Sonny Serrano, representative of the Central Luzon Aeta Association, bared grievances on behalf of his tribe to

the Governor.

This, following reports that Roman King, de facto Leader of the Aetas of Barangay Inararo in Porac town, had allegedly embezzled the shares and income of their Barangay from Puning's Hot Spring Resort for his personal interest.

Data from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), records shows that from April 2016 to April 2019 alone, King has already accumulated at least P16 million out of the shares and income of Barangay Inararo from the resort.

Gov. Delta expressed disappointment and vowed to call the attention of the officials involved.

The Governor also assured Aeta leaders that he will personally ask the local government units of the concerned

communities to immediately investigate the matter.

"Papa-investigate natin ang mga iyan, kung may mga violations na nakita, ako mismo ang tutulong sa inyo na mahinto ang sistemang iyan," he assured the leaders.

Moreover, the IP leaders recognized the plan of the Governor and pledged their full cooperation, as safety and welfare of their families are also their primary concern.

NCIP Intervention

To ensure all ancestral lands and titles are well-preserved and accounted for, Gov. Pineda tasked NCIP to intensify monitoring of the Aeta Community.

"Kayo sa NCIP dapat mas paigtingin niyo pa intervention ninyo sa mga Aeta. Hindi lang tayong hanggang sa pagbaban-

tay ng mga lupa nila. Do not limit your intervention to them para mas ma-monitor natin ang kalagayan nila," he urged.

"As NCIP, dapat kayo ang katuwang nila. Tulungan niyo sila. Give them guidelines kung paano i-manage ang pera nila. Give them suggestions as to how they should deal with investors. And lastly, dapat alamin niyo ang lahat ng transactions nila para hindi sila maloloko ng mga mapansamantalang investors," Gov. Delta furthered.

Zoning ordinance

The Governor also promised the Aetas that he will look into the land zoning issues in Floridablanca, Porac towns and Mabalacat City.

According to him, if portions of their ancestral domain overlap become part of the

zoning ordinance, he will take action right away.

For him, it is not right to interfere with the Aetas, especially when it is evident that their livelihood is in the uplands.

Aeta community village

He also presented during the dialogue the plans for Aeta Community Village intended for the affected IPs from the 6.1 magnitude quake that hit the province and some parts of Luzon last April 22.

He guaranteed the Aetas that there is a planned housing program for them.

Gov. Delta also promised that Provincial Government will never abandon them and will give them the best services that they deserve.

- **Luisse Rutao/Leah Isidro De Fiesta-Pampanga PIO**



DOLE's David Estanislao (right) leads the purchasing of ready-to-wear clothing in Baclaran Market, Manila for the beneficiaries in Tarlac.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOLE TARLAC

DOLE Tarlac gives aid to Marawi siege victims

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

TARLAC CITY - The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) here granted livelihood assistance to 20 displaced Marawi siege victims and 27 members of the Pinagbuklod ng Masang Pilipino Inc.-Tarlac Chapter.

All 47 beneficiaries benefited from the P200,000 worth of ready-to-wear (RTW) clothing merchandise under the DOLE Integrated

Livelihood Program (DILP).

Senior labor and employment officer David Estanislao said after the Marawi siege, most of the beneficiaries opted to stay in Tarlac to start anew and retail RTWs around different municipalities in the province.

"We hope that with the additional goods provided, their enterprise grows into a viable and sustainable one. For them, what was given is not only livelihood aid but also

another shot at their future," he said.

DOLE Tarlac Field Office head Aurita Laxamana emphasized that DOLE remains committed in promoting entrepreneurship development by providing livelihood assistance to start-ups, small businesses and cooperatives.

"DILP is open to any group as long as the requirements of the program are met," she added.

'Pusher' killed in drug ops

MASINLOC, Zambales -- A suspected drug pusher was killed after he fired his gun at the police poseur-buyer he was dealing with in a drug sting at Pulangui Road, Barangay Taltal here.

Zambales Police Provincial Office (ZPPO) director Col. Ponce Rogelio Peñones, Jr., identified the suspect as Nestor Divino y Zapanta, 40, resident of Barangay Baloganon, Masinloc town. The suspect was in the police drug watchlist.

Reports said joint elements of the Masinloc Municipal Police Station led by its chief, Major Jude Bryan B. Magundayao, and Zambales 1st Provincial Mobile Force Company were conducting anti-illegal drug operation in Barangay Taltal, when the suspect upon realizing that the buyer was an undercover policeman fired his gun, hitting the upper left abdomen of the poseur-buyer but who was wearing a bullet proof vest.

The back-up arresting offi-

cers fired back, hitting suspect in the body that resulted to his death.

The Zambales Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) recovered one .38 revolver with defaced serial number loaded with three live ammunition and three fired cartridges cases; three fired cartridges cases of 9mm; three deformed fired bullet; 12 heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing white crystalline substance.

- **Johnny R. Reblando**

DOH warns vs 'WILD' diseases

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO - The Department of Health (DOH) has raised the alarm on the so-called "WILD" diseases.

WILD diseases stand for water-borne diseases, influenza, leptospirosis, and dengue.

Trixia Ponio, DOH health education and promotion officer, said these are the types of diseases that usually become rampant during rainy season because of the wet or damp surroundings.

"Usually, we can see an increase in dengue cases during rainy season because the rain water accumulates in tires, bottles and other empty containers. This becomes stagnant and become breeding sites for mosquitoes," Ponio said.

Aside from dengue, the DOH staff said they also anticipate a rise in leptospirosis cases during rainy season, especially in perennially flooded towns like Macabebe, and also among farmers.

Ponio added that influenza, which is highly contagious, is also among the prevalent rainy-day diseases.

"Flu usually starts with colds and cough, accompanied by body aches and fever. This can worsen and rapidly spread in crowded communities, especially among those

who have weak immune system," she said.

Another type of disease that we need to watch out, according to DOH, are water borne diseases including cholera and diarrhea.

"These are common among those who are in the evacuation centers or those whose water source becomes contaminated. These can also result from unsanitary food preparations," Ponio said.

To combat these diseases, the DOH urges the public to keep the immune system strong, eat healthy foods, practice hygienic and sanitary preparation of foods, and avoid contamination of drinking water.

"We should always bring an umbrella to shield us from the rains. We should also avoid floodwater. However, if there is really a need to go outside, be sure to wear boots and other protective gear so that leptospirosis bacteria will not enter our wounds and other openings," Ponio pointed out.

She added that proper hygiene is also a must. DOH also discourages the public from self-medication as it also encourages the public to immediately go to the nearest health station when not feeling well.

- **Ashley Manabat**

Student drowns, 1 missing

BY JOHNNY REBLANDO

IBA, Zambales -- A student drowned while one remained missing while swimming at Sitio Corocan, Barangay Lipay Dingin in this town.

Report reaching the office of Zambales Police Office (ZPPO) director Col. Ponce Rogelio Peñones, Jr., identified the fatality as Marisol Yeke y Dagohoy, 21, student, single, and resident of Magsaysay Castillejos, Zambales. Missing is Alison Testimio y Marpa, 20, student, and resident of Barangay San Fernando, Sta Cruz, Zambales.

The report said that the vic-

tims were having drinking session together

with Mickey Obina y Rodillas, and Ayra Lou Rico y Saytono. After drinking, Yeke, Testimonio, and Obina went swimming but due to strong currents went under water.

Yeke was recovered by bystanders and brought to President Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival by attending physician Dra. Aileen Garrido.

Alison was still missing and still subject of retrieval operations by the 302nd PNP Maritime based at Bangantalinga, Iba.

Insular Life offers unique products

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CLARK FREEPORT – One of the oldest insurance companies in the Philippines is giving its clients unique products that no other insurance company is offering.

Insular Life presented its distinct products in a forum at the “Bali-taan” organized by the Capampangan in Media, Inc. in cooperation with the Clark Development Corp. at the Bale Balita here on Friday.

Carlito V. Lucas, Insular Life first vice president and head of corporate sales division, said Insular Life is now the envy of the industry because it is the only company that offers the Solid Fund Builder (SFB), a single paying investment product that gives an opportunity to build up fund faster by beating inflation and is a lot easier.

He said it also provides life insurance to protect your love ones from risks of financial loss.

“It gives you an opportunity for faster fund growth,” he added.

“We have different fund options. In fact, our funds right now is one of the best performing funds in the industry,” Lucas stated.

“If you will look at our equity fund since its inception, it has grown by as much as 376 percent,” he pointed out.

Lucas explained that with a minimum single premium of just a one-time P100,000 and a minimum regular top up of P3,000 per month; you are already on your way to getting your first million on the 13th year.

“These are the product features of our Solid Fund Builder,” he said.

Lucas explained that automatically, if something happens to the policy holder, the amount to be generated by the beneficiary is already 125 percent of the amount that he put in and that is P125,000 already.

“If you place your money today and the following day something happens to you, automatic the P125,000 is already guaranteed,” he assured.

“This is how we illus-

trate it. Every time that you put in money, there is already fund accumulation. Insular Life guarantees 125 percent,” he said.

Lucas said Insular Life also offers the single premium product called Wealth Builder.

He said the one-time fund is being offered at a minimum of P200,000. “The fund is invested in one of our equities,” he said.

Another product is the “Peso Global Equity Fund” which gives out seven percent per annum which is higher compared to the banks.

“So, if you put in a single premium, 125 percent of the fund is already guaranteed,” he said.

Retirement

Then there is the Comprehensive Group Plans (CGP). “Other corporations are not familiar with it but it is a way to prepare for the retirement of their employees, Lucas said.

“We are the only one who has this product among the many insurance companies,” he

said. “But we are here not to rival the banks but to provide other options,” he added.

Lucas explained that CGP is a two-in-one product. It has a built-in life insurance covering all employees and then the portion of the investment of the corporation will go to retirement fund management or site fund which will earn a guaranteed net interest.

It also has a plus upside potential which means that if the actual market yield is higher than what Insular Life guaranteed, your money will earn more, which is the effect of the upside potential, he explained.

CGP is a retirement fund management and life insurance protection, Lucas said, which is open to companies

to prepare for the retirement of its employees.

For companies, if they want sure investment, they can use this as the funding vehicle, he pointed out.

Lucas said CGP has become more relevant especially after the passage of RA 7641 otherwise known as the Philippine Retirement Pay Law which makes it mandatory for companies to give retirement pay to their employees.

Insular Life is offering another basket of benefits with the CGP, he said.

Meanwhile, aside from corporate-account administrators, individual members who are enrolled in the group policy can now also access their own account, view details of their insurance

coverage, update their individual information, as well as their beneficiaries and/or dependents and download servicing forms. They can also receive and send out communications to Insular Life using their central mailbox.

The portal is also mobile-responsive, which means users may access their account details using their smart phones, tablets or laptops.

Also present at the forum were Insular Life’s Joy M. Gonzales, assistant vice president, regional head for Central Luzon Gerry Catamas who also made a presentation, Archie Francisco corporate sales team leader, Karen L. Plata, assistant manager PR staff and Sherwin.

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'Falcon' boosts Pantabangan water reserve

BY ARMAND M. GALANG

CABANATUAN CITY - The National Irrigation Administration-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-UPRIIS) stopped on Wednesday the release of water from the mammoth Pantabangan Dam as rains brought

by Typhoon Falcon would be utilized by local farmers in the ongoing rice planting activities.

Engr. Rose Bote, department manager of NIA UPRIIS, said that cutting off the release for irrigation would be an opportunity to boost the dam's reserve.

Pantabangan Dam's wa-

ter level was at 188 meters above sea level as of 7:45 am Wednesday, according to Bote.

She said they released water at 114 cubic meters per second up to Tuesday to sustain the need of farmers who are currently in planting activities.

Farmers in three divisions of UPRIIS, she said, have received some 30,000 bags of subsidized rice seeds from the Department of Agriculture, she said.

"Kapag umuulan ay inihinto natin ang release ng tubig para makapag-reserve pa," she said.

Pantabangan Dam's spilling level is 221 masl.

Meanwhile, several local government units, including this city, San Jose City, and the towns of Santa Rosa, Cuyapo, and Rizal have suspended classes for pre-elementary to high school in both public and private schools.



Fun with SM Kids Accessories

THE HEAT is still on. And if you've still got time for that family vacay, SM Accessories will help make your kids sunshine ready with its collection of hats, sun glasses, watches and small bags.

Hats will keep the little ones protected in style. **SM Accessories Kids** has bucket hats that give full shade

and come in colorful designs with summer prints and patterns; as well as baseball caps given a reboot with vibrant colors and statement designs.

Classic wayfarers and aviators are given a new look with translucent frames in candy colors and colored lenses now that's what you can call eye candy!

Jelly strap watches capture summer's exuberance and energy; while bags keep their getaway -haves in place.

This fun kid's summer accessories must have are available at **SM Accessories Kids** department of **The SM Store**.

-Press release

Toxic cosmetics seized in AC

ANGELES CITY - The City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) here has confiscated cosmetic products from two cosmetics distributors.

In a report to Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr., Angeles City OIC-CENRO Archimedes Lazatin noted the confiscation of 83 pieces of Jiaolo 7-day Specific Eliminating Freckle AB Set at Meisy David Cosmetics; and 11 pieces of Goree Beauty Cream at Luigi's Health Beauty Kiosk.

Meisy David Cosmetics is located at 621 Rizal Street, Barangay Lourdes Sur while Luigi's Health Beauty Kiosk is located at the ground floor of the Jenra Grand Mall along Sto. Rosario Street. The two cosmetics distributors are now facing closure.

The City Enro Special Task Force Unit has recommended the closure of the two establishments.

The confiscation of the cosmetic products was done shortly after the Quezon City-based EcoWaste Coalition urged Mayor Lazatin "to take

action to protect his constituents in Angeles City from being poisoned by mercury-containing skin whitening cosmetics."

The EcoWaste Coalition said skin lightening facial creams have a high level of mercury, a toxic chemical not allowed in cosmetic products under the Asean Cosmetic Directive.

By 2020, it is expected that mercury-laden cosmetic products such as skin lightening creams and soaps with mercury content of about 1 part per million (ppm) will be off the shelves all over the world.

The Yu Dan Tang freckle removing cream, skin whitening and sun block bought in Angeles City have registered 55,100 ppm of mercury. The Goree Beauty Cream posted 23,300 ppm while the Goree Day & Night Cream registered 17,400 ppm.

Skin lightening products containing mercury are reportedly hazardous to health, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

-Angeles CIO

Delta urges scholars to excel in studies

NLE topnotcher is Capitol's scholar

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO--- Gov. Dennis Delta Pineda has urged incoming educational scholars of the provincial government to excel in their studies and training to be able to be more competitive in the job market.

Pineda cited as an outstanding example Jeremiah Paula Austria Caceres who topped the June 2019 Nurse Licensure Examination (NLE).

The topnotcher from Angeles University Foundation garnered a percentage rating of 87.40, landing her first place, a spot she shared with Almira Hinsoy of West Visayas State University.

The provincial government supported Caceres for two years through the Educational Financial Assistance Program (EFAP), which Vice Gov. Lilia G. Pineda started when she

was governor in 2010. Provincial Board Member Fritzie David-Dizon, as councilor of Porac town, enrolled Caceres in the EFAP.

Through EFAP, the provincial government in academic year June 2018 to March 2019 supported 20,808 college scholars and professional licensure exams takers, investing almost P82 million in them. On top of these, the provin-

cial government gave cash aid of P2,500 to each in the first batch of 15,331 K-12 graduates last March 2019 for a total of P38.330 million. The Pineda administration has invested P1.2 billion on education from 2010-2018.

Caceres said "having been given this kind of opportunity by the government helped me in such a way that I didn't have to worry about my finances while I was studying. I was able to solely focus on my studies as I knew that my family wouldn't have that much of a hard time settling the bills for my matriculation because of the presence of (EFAP)."

Topping the NLE had no secrets, the 20-year-old beauty added. "It's hard to say the exact thing that I did in order to land the number one spot because frankly, there was no formula involved. I just tried to do my best and make the most out of every opportunity wherein I thought I could learn something. I always kept in mind the people for whom I was doing it for and of course, I prayed for it a lot. I didn't actually ask for much, only passing it was enough but thanks to His grace, what seemed impossible back then turned into a reality," Caceres shared.

She is proud of her mother, Sylvia, who has a high sense of civic duty. Sylvia worked as a barangay health worker for 22 years and recently volunteered as a Nanay Community

Worker (NCW), a program that Governor Pineda organized when he was vice governor and co-chair of the Pampanga Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

There are not less than 1,000 NCWs all over the province, helping in health, peace and order and disaster prevention programs.

Speaking of her mother, Caceres said: "When I asked her the why she decided to be in the NCW she told me that the extra information that she gains from seminars have become really handy. She also added that being of service to the community and being able to help people even in her own little way gives her fulfillment and joy."

Caceres has received several job offers but she has not yet accepted any in particular.

The governor said that should she prefer to render service in public health, he would gladly help her get employed in the capitol's provincial hospital or district hospitals.

"Hinihikayat ko ang mga capitol scholars na gayahin si Jem (Caceres) na maging mahusay sa kanilang pag-aaral at training para agad silang magkatrabaho. Pinag-iigi po natin ang employment placement assistance program para makatulong sa ating mga kabalen na makahanap ng trabaho dito o sa abroad," Pineda said.



Jeremiah Caceres (2nd from right) and her mother Sylvia thank Vice Gov. Lilia Pineda and provincial board member Fritzie David-Dizon for supporting her through the provincial government's Educational Financial Assistance Program.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUN JASO/PAMPANGA PIO



RABIES PREVENTION. Japanese delegates are assisted by city veterinarian Dr. Ryan Paul Manlapaz during their visit at the City of San Fernando's dog pound facility to conduct tests and observations for the development of innovative diagnostic methods for rabies. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Japan gov't conducts rabies diagnosis test in CSF

DELEGATES from Japan, in cooperation with the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, visited the City of San Fernando's dog pound facility to conduct tests and observations for the development of innovative diagnostic methods for rabies.

Dr. Satoshi Inoue from the Department of Veterinary Science National Institute of Infectious Diseases and Dr. Chun-Ho, Park from the School of Veterinary Medicine of Kitazato University said the city is among the pioneer LGUs they have visited for the conduct of a Rapid Immunochromatographic Test (ICT) in the Philippines. This is a new procedure to detect rabies virus through dog whiskers—long, coarse hairs protruding from a dog's muzzle, jaw and above the eyes.

In an interview, City Vet-

erinarian Dr. Ryan Paul Manlapaz said the Rapid ICT is conveniently feasible compared to the direct microscopic examination that is currently practiced in the Philippines which also requires animal euthanasia.

"Sa ngayon kasi kailangan muna nating patayin ang aso na nangagat bago natin malaman kung may rabies ito. Pero sa bagong test na dinedevelop ng Japan kahit hindi patayin ang aso basta makuhanan ito ng whisker ay pwede ng i-test," he furthered.

Manlapaz also highlighted that the new test can provide fast and more reliable results.

"Kadalasan, umaabot ng dalawang araw bago malaman ang resulta doon sa microscopic exam, pero kapag Rapid ICT na ang ginawa natin, in less than an hour, pwede ng ma-detect kung may rabies o wala ang isang hayop," he explained.

It could be remembered that in 2018, the Philippine government asked the assistance of Japan for the establishment of a rabies prevention and treatment network model in its quest to become a rabies-free country by 2020.

Meanwhile, Mayor Edwin "EdSa" Santiago encouraged the Fernandinos to support the rabies prevention and control program of the City Agriculture and Veterinary Office (CAVO) and avail the free services they offer.

"Rabies continues to be a public health problem that's why we continue to strengthen our programs to eradicate it. The CAVO provides free vaccination, deworming and check-up for pets and also regularly conducts dog impounding operations in all 35 barangays of the City," he said. **-CSFP-CIO**

Environmental TF created in Zambales

BY JOHNNY REBLANDO

IBA, Zambales - The Zambales Police Provincial Office (ZPPO) director, Col. Ponce Rogelio Peñones, Jr., spearhead the creation of the Zambales Inter-Agency Task Force on Environmental Protection with the signing of a memorandum of agreement among concerned entities.

The MOA was signed by the Zambales Police Provincial Office, Zambales Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Zambales Provincial Task Force Kalikasan, Bureau of Fisheries

and Aquatic Resources provincial office, Philippine Coast Guard, 33rd Mechanized Company, and 302nd Maritime Police Station.

The MOA aims to "intensify the anti-criminality operations of Zambales PPO through the implementation of enhanced-managing police operations, working in partnership with the inter-agency task force in order to harmonize and rationalize the government efforts in the implementation of environmental laws, ordinances, other administrative issuances, thereby establishing/creating the Zambales

Inter-Agency Task Force on Environmental Protection."

Zambales Vice Gov. Jefferson Khonghun standing witness to the MOA signing said: "Maganda itong nagsama-sama ang bawat ahensiya ng gobyerno sa Zambales at handa ang provincial government sa ano mang tulong maipagkakaloob para sa implementasyon ng Task Force on Environment Protection."

Meanwhile, Neil Encinares of the BFAR provincial office revealed that dynamite fishing is still practiced in the coastal towns of San Antonio, Cabangan, Iba, and Sta. Cruz.

Recto wants CARP loans condoned

BY DING CERVANTES

CLARK FREEPORT -- "If we have forgiven billionaires' debts, why not CARP loans of farmers?"

With this question in mind, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto has filed a bill condoning all the debts farmers incurred in owning lands under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The measure seeks the write-off of all unpaid amortizations, interests, penalties, surcharges on loans secured under CARP.

Recto, in a statement, said that "once this mass amnesty of farmer's obligations will be approved by law, the agrarian reform beneficiaries shall be deemed rightful owners of the lands awarded to them."

Landowners whose properties were subjected to land distribution will still be paid, Recto explained, adding that "their right to be paid on time and based on the legal contracts will be honored and will not be impaired."

In one official report, only P2.5 billion of the P14.3 billion

in amortization for loans granted to awardees of CARP from 1987 to 2004 was paid.

Collection performance by the Land Bank of the Philippines on CARP loans, on the other hand, was about 51 percent as of March 2015.

Recto said the total amount of land reform loans for forgiveness is small compared to the hundreds of billions in private sector loans it had written off over the past 40 years.

"We have bailed out banks, paid for white elephant projects, amortized foreign loans of dubious benefits, lost money in bankrupt firms, entered into joint ventures which left us holding the bag," Recto said.

"Government has a history of being generous to corporate deadbeats whose loans we guaranteed and eventually assumed. But we have not extended the same consideration to the farming poor," he lamented.

"When can government be a white knight to indebted farmers who are being squeezed between rising production costs and falling crop prices?" Recto said.

2 estudyante timbog sa buy-bust

5 kilo marijuana nakumpiska

NI ROMMEL RAMOS

BALAGTAS, Bulacan --- Dalawang estudyante ang arestado sa ikinasang buy-bust operation sa Barangay San Juan dito kung saan nasa mahigit limang kilo ng marijuana ang nakumpiska.

Ang mga naarestong suspek ay kinalalang sina Paolo Licud, 21, single, estudyante, ng Magdalena Subd., Barangay San Juan, at Mark John Paul Bateni y Narciso, 18, single, estudyante, Barangay Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Isinagawa ng PDEA at Balagtas PNP ang buy-bust na nagresulta sa pagkaka-aresto ng mga suspect matapos pagbentahan ng marijuana ang poseur-buyer.

Nakumpiska mula dalawa ang anim na bricks ng marijuana na may timbang na 5.5 kilo na tinatayang nagkakahalaga ng P1.1 million, at marked money.

Ayon kay Bulacan PNP provincial director Col. Chito

Bersaluna, karaniwang parok-yano ng dalawa ay mga kapwa nila estudyante sa mga paaralan sa mga karatig bayan ng Balagtas.

Aniya nasa watchlist nila ang mga suspect na matagal na nilang minamanmanan.

Ayon sa kanilang pag-iimbestiga nanggaling pa sa Mountain Province ang mga bricks ng marijuana na sinasadya pa roon na kunin ng mga suspek.

Pinag-iingat ni Bersaluna ang mga kabataan na huwag malulong sa droga. Para sa mga magulang aniya ay marapat lamang na bantayan ang kanilang mga anak upang malayo sa mga masamang bisyo.

Nagsisisi naman ang suspek na si Bateni sa pagkakasangkot sa ilegal na gawain at kung papalarin na makalaya ay hindi na niya ito uulitin

Ang mga suspek ay kasalukuyang naka-ditene sa Balagtas Police Station at mahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa RA 9165.

No Hidden Agenda!

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

Editorial

By the billions

\$1.3-B first tranche signed for Malolos-Clark railway

DOTr, Japanese partners ink P12-B supply contract

P1.6-B Subic expressway widening project underway

P8-B Capas-Botolan Road finished in 2022

IT CAN'T get any more screaming than *Punto's* headlines Wednesday. Its front page most appropriately tagged "billion page."

Doing the math, the projects total a whopping P87.25 billion – the dollar price at the exchange rate of P50.50.

And that's not all. There is more, much more, per the Department of Public Works and Highways, to wit:

The P922-million Pulilan-Baliuag Diversion Road in Bulacan to be completed in 2020.

The P1.19-billion San Rafael-San Ildelfonso-San Miguel Bypass Road likewise in Bulacan finished by 2022.

The P970-million Ciudad de Victoria Interchange Overpass Bridge also in Bulacan.

The P1.42 billion Bagac-Mariveles Road in Bataan with a target 2020 completion date.

The P19.9 billion Lubao-Guagua-Minalin-Sto Tomas Road in Pampanga which construction started last December.

Totaling to another P24.4 billion. For a grand total of P111.65 billion. Wow!

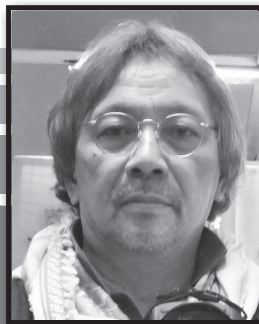
And we have not even counted there developments in the New Clark City and the Clark International Airport.

At no place other than Central Luzon has the Build Build Build mantra of the Duterte administration sounded loudest and most manifest, arguably.

At no time in the history of Central Luzon has there been this much infusion of funds, this scope and scale of infrastructure development, most certainly.

No disparagement to the two immediate past presidents who hailed from the region, but that it took the man from faraway Davao City to serve as catalyst of this unprecedented development of Central Luzon bespeaks of a billion meanings.

Go, figure.



acaesar.blogspot.com

Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Opinion

Hellish highway to... heaven?

CURSES. ALL the idiots and imbeciles out on the road soon as one hits MacArthur Highway from the St. Jude Village home.

Jeepneys making the highway's northbound outermost lane from the Lazatin Blvd. intersection a dedicated expressway exclusive to them, in utter disregard of the traffic light there. *Gago!*

Tricycles taking the innermost, and therefore fast, lane in their own sweet time, holding all vehicles behind them to a processional, aye, funereal, pace. *Bolang!*

Stuck in traffic with the red light by Vista Mall with neither vehicle nor pedestrian turning to or coming from its small street entrance. *'taknayda...!*

Caught in horrendous jam at St. Scholastica's Academy during morning classes and afternoon dismissals. *Buwisit!*

Motorcyclists weave in and out of traffic, take the very median, and drive through traffic lights at whim. *Ulo!*

Dump trucks heavily loaded with sand making a speed track out of the national highway. *Tarantado!*

The whole breadth of the highway occupied by hauler trucks entering or exiting Pepsi, Coca-Cola, and San Miguel complexes. *Put... naydayo!*

Got to expel all the expletives, else one's system gets so pressured the blood in the brain explodes. And for what good?

So, take photos of all and any traffic infraction one sees as one drives and upload them later in the web. With traffic enforcers no better than the inanimate electric posts they lean onto, the blood boils, the curses more damning, the simple *bolang* devolving to *mabolang-bolang a buguk!*

Really got to take the mind off this rage. So, why not engage oneself in some game, like counting cars. As in how the Mitsubishi Montero fares against the Toyota Fortuner in sheer numbers? The ratio is for every one of the former, there are three of the latter.

Or, which color is predominant among cars and SUVs? It's a toss among red, black, and white.

Or, trying to sight a still roadworthy *kotseng kuba?* But for the four in St. Jude, I regularly see only two on the highway. On a good day at that.

Getting tired of mental sports, why not entertain oneself with funny road stories, like that one about a *Baluga* – damn the political incorrectness but that's how the character was originally called – going on his first mini-bus ride from Angeles City to San Fernando.

So, the *kulot* took the Thames mini and settled himself in a cramped seat. Once on the way, the conductor began asking passengers

where they would alight. One said "Pepsi." Another, "Coca-Cola." A third, "Cosmos." A fourth, "San Miguel." When it was the *Baluga's* turn, he sheepishly said: "*Danum na mu pu, coya. Ala cu pung panyaling sopdrink* (Just water, I don't have money to buy soda.)" For the uninitiated, the bottling companies and the brewery are main stops along the highway between the two cities.

So, the frown invariably melts into a smile at every memory of the *kuwentong kulut*. The revelry, only to be smacked anew by the reality of street anarchy. *Anakpu...!*

So much hatred of these road idiots and imbeciles that when one chances upon a dump truck that smashed some wall, a jeepney that struck a tree, a tricycle on its side by the roadside, a riderless broken motorcycle on the road, one finds more sympathy with the wall, the tree, the roadside, and the road. A feeling of karmic glee even – *bage yu, diyablos!* Of *schadenfreude*: pleasure, in this case ah, so supreme, over the misfortune of another.

Until one realizes the unChristianity of it all, and seeks some other means, charitable and prayerful ones, in coping with traffic tension here.

Like, suppliant invocation of the saints and the Holy Virgin Mother, and asking for mercy from Jesus or thanking Him along one's way, as one passes or is paused along areas that remind one of them.

As in one's usual route: starting from home with the patron of the impossible St. Jude, onto San Agustin (parish church), St. Scholastica (school), San Isidro (barangay), San Miguel (brewery), Nuestra Senora Del Pilar (village), Mother Teresa of Calcutta (hospital), St. John Bosco (school), Our Lady of Fatima (college), St. Paul (novitiate), Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (hospital), St. Maximilian Kolbe (subdivision), San Rafael (college), onto the Most Sacred of Jesus (church), before reaching the *Punto!* office.

That personal litany of saints has since evolved into praying the Holy Rosary – supplemented with a longer litany, and prayers for the dead and the sick, for benefactors, for the Pope, even for the President – in my daily commute, my fingers serving as the beads, difficult as it is to hold a rosary simultaneously with the wheel.

Of course, I harbor no illusions of holiness. The sinner that I am, this may not even take me to heaven, but it has most certainly given me much relief from the demons that make hell out of MacArthur Highway.

TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

Arroyo orders the pullout of the Philippine humanitarian contingent out of Iraq

ON JULY 19, 2004, President Gloria Arroyo ordered the pullout of the Philippine humanitarian contingent out of Iraq to save the life of a Filipino truck driver who was taken captive by Iraqi rebels.

Angelito de la Cruz was abducted on July 4 of the same year while crossing the borders of Iraq. The Iraqi rebels threatened to behead him unless the Filipino peace contingent in Iraq was recalled be-

fore the end of July of that year.

Ahead of the pullout, Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said he had spoken to Arroyo and urged her to "reconsider" withdrawing forces because "we cannot give up to terrorism".

U.S. officials also have expressed dismay at Manila's decision, saying it could spark further abductions by terrorists.

After two weeks in captiv-

ity, De la Cruz was freed unharmed on July 20, 2004, a day after the Philippine government completed the withdrawal of its 51-member humanitarian contingent in compliance with kidnappers' demands.

De la Cruz was first turned over to officials at the UAE Embassy in Baghdad before he was transferred to the Philippine Embassy. He was flown to Abu Dhabi for medical evaluation.



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Halo-halo
Ding Cervantes

Opinion

Taking God's name in vain

IT SEEMS everywhere, this violation of the Second Commandment: from the seemingly light expression "Susmaryosep" or "Josko" to the seriously blasphemous utterance of His name at the height of pornographic orgasm.

The commandment, lest we forget: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

It could be that our common expressions started prayerfully in the old days when most Pinoys were more religious. But these have evolved into habits that, over the years, lost all religious color.

Using "Josko" or "Susmaryosep" (a contraction of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) may have become habitual, devoid of malice, but for those who know their Decalogue, there is still awareness of the wrongness of the expression.

Again, from the writings of mystic Maria Valtorta, let me share a quote from Jesus Christ on the Second Commandment.

Jesus said:

"I solemnly tell you that the perfect sacrilege is committed by the Israelite who with his impure soul takes the Name of the Lord in vain. His Name is taken in vain, when you are aware, and you are not fools, that you pronounce it in vain because of the state of your souls.

"Oh! I see the indignant face of God which disgusted turns elsewhere when a hypocrite calls Him or an unrepentant soul mentions Him! And I am terrified although I do not deserve the divine wrath.

"I read in many of your hearts this thought: 'Well, with the exception of children, no one can mention God's name, because in all men

there is impurity and sin". No. Do not say that. That Name is to be invoked by sinners. It is to be invoked by those who feel they are choked by Satan and want to free themselves from sin and from the Seducer.

"It is said in Genesis that the Serpent tempted Eve when the Lord was not walking in Eden. If God had been in Eden, Satan could not have been there. If Eve had invoked God, Satan would have fled. Always have that thought in your hearts. And call the Lord with sincerity. That Name is salvation.

"Many of you wish to descend into the river to be purified. Purify your hearts, unceasingly, writing upon them, by means of love, the word: God. No false prayers. No habitual practices. But say that Name: God, with your hearts, your thoughts, your deeds, with your whole selves. Repeat it that you may not be alone. Repeat it to be supported. Repeat it to be forgiven.

"Understand the meaning of the word of the God of Sinai: the name of God is taken 'in vain' when saying 'God' does not imply a change for the better. Then it is a sin. It is not taken 'in vain', when, like the beating of your hearts, every minute of your day, every honest deed, need, temptation, sorrow bring to your lips the filial word of love: 'Come, my God!' Then, truly, you do not sin mentioning the holy Name of God.

"Go. Peace be with you."

DOST's S&T week zeroes in on SDG attainment thru technologies, innovation

THE National Science and Technology Week (NSTW), an annual celebration of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), focuses on how developments in science, technology, and innovations will help achieve the Philippines' commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the opening of the 2019 NSTW, DOST Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña talked about the SDGs and how innovations and technologies are paving the way for the attainment of the country's SDG goals.

"This year's NSTW focuses on how science and technology are helping us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," said Sec. de la Peña. "With our NSTW experience, I can say that there is hope in the Philippines because of science and technology."

The Secretary described the eight clusters in the exhibit area at the NSTW which displays the latest technologies and innovations, programs, and advocacies of the different agencies of the DOST.

President Rodrigo Duterte, the keynote speaker for the NSTW, was represented by Department of Education Secretary Leonor Briones, who commended the President for his support to the establishment of the Senior High School program. Sec. Briones believes that the integration of STEM education in the senior high school program will provide a strong science and technology foundation among the youth who will be scientists, researchers, engineers, and mathematicians in the future.

Sec. Briones also acknowledged how science and technology has helped improved the way science is being taught these days. "Science and technology developments are helping our teachers improve the way we teach," said Sec Briones.

Incoming chair of the Science and Technology Committee at the Senate, Senator Francis Tolentino, also graced the opening of the NSTW and shared how excited he is to chair the S&T Committee and

learn new things about science and technology and how it will help improve the lives of Filipinos.

The event also saw the launching of Chris Tiu as DOST brand ambassador to help spread awareness on science and technology especially among the youth.

"My role is to help encourage the youth to love science or to pursue a career in science, or at least consider it," said Tiu. He added that with his following, especially in social media, he can help encourage the youth to love science or go into science.

"Hopefully, the youth can also channel their interest in social media and incorporate science in their content," Tiu said. He added that he himself hopes to create content on social media that is focused on S&T to help change the minds of the youth about the field.

The 2019 NSTW will run 17-21 July at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Admission to the exhibits are free and open to the public.

-Press release



Napag-uusapan Lang
Felix M. Garcia

'Limang Kuentu Ban Maging Alertu'

KEN PAMUNG pamagat ning librung pang-anak
A pisaup-saup belangkas, sinulat
Ding mapilan karing matenakang anak
Ning balen, ing mal tang Sabi yang mitindag.

Meyakit ing atin pa muring gagambul
Ban iting salita miuman yang lumabung
At maniangang dakal antimo ing napun,
A nu' e mu keti e matati sibul.

Nune pati karing karatig probinsya;
Umpisa Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija,
Dane Paralaya ning Bulacan, saka
Aliwa pang dake ning Nueva Viscaya.

Mupin, kekaban ning panaung miralan,
King paritak-ditak ikua nang mepangan
Ning salitang iti a kekatang menan
Karing kekatamung tune pipumpunan.

Angga na king iti, king pautik-utik
Misamutanan ya karing ken karatig
Tamung lalawigan, anti ken Calumpit
Uling atyu kapaldakan ning Apalit.

Ing 'Tulya,' karing ken a karelang yaus,
Kekatamu ila pin ding'Parus-parus';
Ing ausan dang 'Ibon', kekatamu 'Ayup'
Ding kekatang 'Ebun,' ing aus da 'Itlog'.

At maging itamung tune Capampangan
Atin tamu namang pamaliwas misan,
Ing 'Akasya,' karas keng parting 'Amianan'
Yaus da kareti 'Patiklodyung' naman.

Nanupata, agyang Capampangan tamu
Atin tamung pamaliwa Amanu,
Iti pasari ning ding minunang tau
King 'Mauli' at ning 'Amianan' siguru.

Pero ngening iting Salita ta'ng Mana,
Bibiayan deng anti kanitang minuna
Ding kaniting libru sinulat, mibata,
Paniwalan ku ing miuman kumabie ya.

Lalu't iting siyudad na ning San Fernando,
Kapamalatan ning City Mayor tamu
A makibat king lagyung Edwin Santiago,
Suportadu ne iting mesabing libru.

Kambe nang Vice Mayor Jimmy T. Lazatin
Ampon aliwa pa pagnasan dang iting
Matagumpe pamilunsad ning mesabing
Libru king Vista Mall, mitukyan masanting.

At atin pang lunto katuki nang lumual
Ning mesabing libru, king kapamalatan
Ding king 'Limang Kuentu..' sinulat, mepagal
Ban atin lang basan ding ngeni magaral.

At nu' antimurin, bukas o makadua
Mapalyaring atin ken magmunkala
Karing mangayap nang lider niting bansa
King pangalinang ning mialiwang salita.

At ban keta miuman masese, magambul
Ing salita da ring keng mialiwang rehiyon,
Bisaya, Ilonggo, Ilokano, Bicol
Ampon aliwa pa ban miuman lumabung

Ing ken katutubu rang Sabi e mate
Ding balang memalen ning mialiwang dake
Ning bansa, at banting manatiling mabie
Ing manang salita ring balang mabibie!



NCC sports complex, gov't center...

FROM PAGE 1

The August completion of the P120-billion project would be earlier than the October 15 target earlier announced by its developer MTD Philippines, Inc.

BCDA said several national government offices are expected to move their operations to NGAC, some 100 kilometers north of congested Metro Manila.

"Phase 1 of the 200-hectare NGAC also involves the development of back-up offices of various government agencies to ensure continuous business operations and services for the people in case of disasters or natural calamities," BCDA said in a statement.

BCDA said "Phase 1A is already close to 90 percent complete, and is

targeted to be finished by the end of August."

NGAC also covers five buildings of the so-called "The Residences" and two buildings of the "Athletes Village."

"The Residences" is a 500-unit housing project to benefit thousands of government workers in the NGAC while the "Athletes Village" is part of the world-class sports facilities to be used for the Philippines' hosting of the 30th SEA Games.

New Clark City is patterned after Putrajaya, the federal administrative capital of Malaysia.

As in Putrajaya, the NGAC is also "envisioned to host the administrative offices of all branches of the Philippine government, as well as their attached agencies," BCDA said.

The agency also said the NGAC was also

aimed to forestall the scenario of P5.4 billion losses per day due to traffic congestion in Metro Manila by 2035.

It noted that once finished and operational, the NGAC is expected to "take some of the pressure off Metro Manila" amid projections of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that by 2035, losses due to traffic congestion in the metropolis could reach P5.4 billion daily unless interventions are done.

JICA has estimated that at present, losses due to traffic congestion in the metropolis amount to about P3.5 billion daily.

"The construction of the NGAC ensures the delivery of services as national agencies seek to locate in a master-planned metropolis

that is also more resilient and sustainable," BCDA said.

BCDA quoted Finance Sec. Carlos Dominguez III as saying that "government offices in Manila are scattered all over the city, and for the public, it's very difficult for them if they have to deal with several ministries to go from one place to another. This (NGAC) makes a lot of sense."

"New Clark City is the Duterte administration's centerpiece infrastructure project in Central Luzon under the Build Build Build program. Its construction is in keeping with the government's commitment to spread infrastructure development outside Metro Manila and bring inclusive growth across all regions," BCDA also said.

CSF launches kids' book on disaster...

FROM PAGE 1

Cristian Mercado, translated by Dr. Fernandina Otchengco and edited by Ching Pangilinan and Michael Pangilinan.

It was organized by the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRMC)-Information Management Committee (IMC).

During the launching, David led a storytelling

activity with elementary students from public and private schools in the city.

Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Jimmy T. Lazatin wants to institutionalize disaster preparedness in schools by coming up with the relevant ordinance for the initiative as he talked on the relevance of the activity.

For his part, Mayor Edwin "Edsa" D. Santiago underscored the

need to instill proper values in children as well as enhanced disaster preparedness because they are the most vulnerable sector in society.

Santiago said the simple book will be a legacy to future generations.

"The simple book will be a gift to the children so that they will gain knowledge and know how to prepare them-

selves in times of disasters," he said.

"The government is here just to facilitate the importance of disaster preparedness," he added.

Later, copies of the book were turned-over to the Department of Education represented by officer-in-charge, assistant schools division superintendent Dr. Shirley Zipagan.

Junk Security of Tenure bill

FROM PAGE 1

cited two reasons in pushing the veto of the SOT bill.

"First, the SOT bill is redundant as there are previously approved laws that already protect workers from Endo, it impinges on management prerogative anchored on the constitution, and it excludes contract workers hired by government agencies," it said, referring to end of contractualization (Endo) policies already put in place by the government.

"Second, the passage of the bill could have a negative impact to the Philippine economy and to the workers whom the bill aims to protect," the statement also said.

The statement was issued jointly by the FEF, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines, the Japanese

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc., the Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines, the Makati Business Club, the Management Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc., the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc.

The groups noted that "at the start of the Administration's campaign in 2016 to eradicate Endo, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) estimated the number of workers under job contracting arrangement at 670,000 in the private sector and more than 700,000 in the government."

"After releasing D.O. 174 in early 2017 and the signing of E.O. 51 by President Duterte in May 2018 which both prohibit Endo, DOLE Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III announced in May 2019 that some 500,000 of these workers in the private sector have already been given regular sta-

tus. The regularization of the remaining workers can be achieved through the continuous implementation of both laws."

They noted in their statement that "the current laws, D.O. 174 and E.O. 51, already expressly prohibit the practice of labor-only contracting or the so-called "Endo" and other illegal forms of contracting. More than a new law that could adversely affect the country's global competitiveness, stronger enforcement of the current bills and policies is essential."

"Moreover, job contracting as an exercise of management prerogative and business judgment is anchored on two constitutional rights: right and freedom to contract and right to property. The Supreme Court has recognized the proprietary right of companies to exercise an inherent prerogative and its best business judgment to determine whether it should contract out performance of some of its work to independent contractors," the statement added.

It also noted that "in addition, the SOT bill

also does not cover contractual workers hired by government agencies due to the potential severe fiscal challenge it may pose, as well as uncertainties over whether the contractual workers will be regularized, given Civil Service Commission requirements."

"Therefore, it does not protect contractual workers hired by government with tenure of up to 15 years already, under the so-called 'job order' system. On the other hand, equal opportunity is not given to private employers as it isolates them by increasing the cost of doing business that could hinder their operations and slow down growth, the statement also said.

It added that "finally, the SOT Bill can have the opposite effect on job creation and security of tenure, as enterprises may choose to eliminate the low-skilled work currently contracted out to service providers by using automation and artificial intelligence, re-designing work processes, or transferring work to more investor-friendly foreign destinations."

—Ding Cervantes

Honest Aeta worker returns \$1K...

FROM PAGE 1

has claimed ownership of the money, the airport chief said.

Laxamana started working at Clark airport in 2006 and part of her job as janitress is to report to operations staff

things that are left unattended around the airport.

"We assure passengers of our strict policy to

immediately turn over or return lost or abandoned items to their rightful owners," Melo added.

—CIAC-CCO

NCC gov't hub to ensure efficient service delivery

Also ease congestion in Manila

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CLARK FREEPORT – A more resilient and sustainable master planned metropolis that is seen to ensure the efficient delivery of services is now being completed at the New Clark City (NCC) located at the Clark special economic zone in Capas, Tarlac.

The construction of the National Government Administrative Center (NGAC) at the NCC is also expected to ease congestion in Metro Manila as national agencies seek to locate at the new Metropolis.

A recent report by the Japanese news agency Nikkei noted that "Metro Manila is home to nearly 13 million people, based on the latest census, but the number swells to around 15 million during the daytime, when workers stream into the city from the suburbs."

The report said "success in Clark could at least take some of the pressure off" Manila, as it cited the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) projection that the country could lose up to P5.4 billion due to congestion daily by 2035 if no interventions are made on the capital's traffic conditions.

It also quoted Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, who supports the establishment of the government center, saying: "The government offices in Manila are scattered all over the city; and for the public, it's very difficult for them if they have to deal with several ministries to go from one place to another. This (NGAC) makes a lot of sense."

Several government offices are set to move its operations to NGAC at NCC, 100 kilometers north of congested Metro Manila.

NCC is envisioned to be the first smart, green, and sustainable metropolis in the country.

Phase 1 of the 200-hectare NGAC also involves the development of back-up offices of various government agencies to ensure continuous business operations and services for the people in case of disasters or natural calamities.

Phase 1A is already close to 90 percent complete and is targeted to be finished by the end of August.

The Nikkei report further said NCC "would also give Manila something it sorely needs: a competitor."

The World Bank, in a 2017 report on urbanization, noted that "the lack of viable alternatives for people and businesses contributes to the capital's worsening congestion as the national economy grows."

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **NEL R. SANTOS** who died intestate on April 12, 2016 in Malabon City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Special Power of Attorney on his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land situated in Carmencita, Floridablanca, Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 17991 before Notary Public Ruben E. Sevillano Jr. as per Doc No. 236, Page No. 48, Book No. III, Series of 2017.

Punto! Central Luzon: July 18, 25 & August 1, 2019

NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that **BLANCA FLOR LOPEZ CALARA**, of legal age, Filipino, single, resident of San Antonio Subdivision, Pulung Maragul, Angeles City and sole heir of **ROBERTO DAVID CALARA** who died intestate on April 26, 2012 in Mabalacat, Pampanga and **ELVIRA LOPEZ CALARA** who died intestate on March 28, 2004 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication on their estate, more particularly described as a parcel land (Lot 12-D-1 of the subdivision plan Psd-03-130801, being a portion of Lot 12-D, Psd-03-0101293, L.R.C. Rec. No.) situated in the Barrio of Pulung Maragul, City of Angeles, Island of Luzon and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 126312, before Notary Public Leila Mae M. Estabillo as per Doc No. 39, Page No. 9, Book No. 4, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: July 4, 11 & 18, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of Sps. **ANTONIO J. DELA CRUZ** and **CECILIA S. DELA CRUZ** who died intestate on July 13, 2017 and February 17, 2019, respectively, both in Mabalacat City, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver on their estate, more particularly described as parcels of land with improvements thereon, to wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 60751-M

Lot 2, Block 8, of the con-subd. plan Pcs-016958, being a portion of the consolidated Lots 36-A-1 to 36-A-3, L.R.C. Cad. Rec. No. 132, situated in the Bo. of Dau, Municipality of Mabalacat, Province of Pampanga;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 32750-M

Lot 1, Block 8 of the consolidation-subd. plan Pcs-16958, being a portion of the consolidation of Lots 36-A-1, 36-A-2, 36-A-3, L.R.C. Cad. Rec. No. 132, situated in the Bo. of Dau, Municipality of Mabalacat, Province of Pampanga;

before Notary Public Adelaido J. Rivera as per Doc No. 255, Page No. 91, Book No. XLI, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: July 4, 11 & 18, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **RAUL F. RAMOS** who died intestate on December 12, 2018 in Apalit, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Absolute Sale on his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot No. 651-A) with existing improvements, located at San Juan, Apalit, Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 416075-R in the Registry of Deeds of Pampanga, before Notary Public Ma. Lowella V. Cezar-Benoza as per Doc No. 1488, Page No. 298, Book No. II, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: July 11, 18 & 25, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **ROLAND B. RAMOSO** who died intestate on April 15, 2011 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 5, Blk. 37, of the cons. subd. plan Pcs-03-001585, being a portion of the cons. Lots 2, Pcs-03-001470 & Lot 3004-H, Pcs-03-007879, LRC Rec. No.), situated in the Mun. of Bacolor & San Fdo., Prov. of Pamp. and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 561024-R in the Register of Deeds for the Province of Pampanga, before Notary Public Rodolfo S. Uyengco as per Doc No. 1176, Page No. 15, Book No. LXI, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: July 11, 18 & 25, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 42
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRY
IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF
VIRGILIO DE LEON TIGLAO, PARTICULARLY
THE MONTH AND YEAR OF HIS BIRTHDATE,

VIRGILIO L. TIGLAO, HEREIN REPRESENTED BY
HIS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT, PRESENTACION T. YUTUC,
Petitioner,

- versus - SP. PROC. CASE NO. 6035

MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MEXICO,
PAMPANGA; THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL,
Respondents.

X-----X

ORDER

This PETITION is for correction of entry in the CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH of VIRGILIO DE LEON TIGLAO under Local Civil Registry No. 355 registered in the Local Civil Registrar of Mexico, Pampanga, which was raffled to this Court on June 17, 2019.

Attached to the PETITION are the following: 1) Photocopy of ACKNOWLEDGEMENT signed by TANYA FAYE O. RAMIRO, Vice-Counsel, Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines dated May 30, 2019 with attached SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY dated May 30, 2019 executed by Virgilio L. Tiglao and America Passport of Virgilio De Leon Tiglao under Passport Number 594499244 (Annexes "A" to "A-1"); 2) Photocopy of CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH of Virgilio De Leon Tiglao registered with the Local Civil Registrar of Mexico, Pampanga under Registry No. 355 issued by Lisa Grace S. Bersales, Ph.D., National Statistician and Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority (Annex "B"); 3) Photocopy of CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM issued by Fr. Abel S. Basilio, Parish Priest of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Calulut, City of San Fernando, Pampanga (Annex "C"); 4) Photocopy of PHILIPPINE PASSPORT of Virgilio De Leon Tiglao under Passport Number B0245648 issued on November 14, 1984 (Annex "D"); 5) Photocopy of the biodata page of the PHILIPPINE PASSPORT of Virgilio L. Tiglao under Passport Number G488529 issued on November 7, 1988 (Annexes "E" to "E-1"); 6) Photocopy of the LTO OFFICIAL RECEIPT NO. 0051031-1 dated May 17, 1988 (Annex "F"); 7) Photocopy of MARRIAGE CONTRACT executed by and between Virgilio L. Tiglao and Rosalinda A. Limbitco on December 26, 1989 solemnized before Hon. Virgilio S. Lansang (Annex "G"); 8) Photocopy of MARRIAGE CONTRACT executed by and between Virgilio L. Tiglao and Rosalinda A. Limbitco on October 20, 1990 solemnized by Rev. Fr. Benjamin C. Dela Paz, Guest Priest of Holy Rosary Parish Church, Angeles City (Annex "H"); and 9) Photocopy of biodata page of the AMERICAN PASSPORT of Virgilio De Leon Tiglao (Annex "I").

The PETITION is sufficient in form and substance and therefore, the Court hereby:

- set the case for hearing on **September 2, 2019 at 2:00 in the afternoon.**
- orders Petitioner (1) to serve within Twenty Four (24) hours from receipt of this Order 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, the **Office of the Civil Registrar General and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)**, Quezon City, the **Office of the Provincial Prosecutor**, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, the **Local Civil Registrar**, Mexico, Pampanga; (2) to show proof of said service to this Court;
- orders all person interested in the PETITION: (1) to appear on said date and time before the Court-Regional Trial Court, Branch 42, City of San Fernando, Pampanga; (2) to show cause, if any, why the Petition should not be granted.
- orders the Solicitor General to enter his appearance in this case for the State within Twenty Four (24) hours from receipt of this Order.
- orders the Branch Clerk of Court to furnish copies of this Order to the Petitioner, the counsel, the Solicitor General, Office of the Civil Registrar General and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Provincial Prosecutor of Pampanga; and, the Local Civil Registrar, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
- in addition, pursuant to OCA Circular No. (108-2010, "Guidelines for the Temporary Replacements of Clerks of Court in the Handling of Cases from which they are Disqualified under Section I, Rule 137 of the Rules of Court, as amended", in relation to A.M. No. 08-4-1-SC), the counsel for the Petitioner, is hereby ordered to file on or before the presentation of jurisdictional facts a written manifestation under oath, in which it is declared whether or not he or his clients are related to the Branch Clerk of Court of this Branch, stating therein the degree of relationship by affinity or consanguinity.

Further, let the Petitioner at his expense publish this ORDER for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga.

SO ORDERED.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, June 24, 2019.

MARIA AMIFAITH FIDER-REYES
Judge

Copy furnished:

Prosecutor Christopher J. Dela Cruz
Office of the Provincial Prosecutor
DM Regional Government Center
Brgy. Maimpis, City of San Fernando,
Pampanga

Office of the Solicitor General
Mexico, Pampanga
Makati City

Virgilio L. Tiglao
rep. by Presentacion T. Yutuc
1047 Foxhole Street, Brgy. Calulut
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Office of the Clerk of Court
OCC-Regional Trial Court
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Atty. Sheila C. Yutuc
Shop 8 Ground Floor, Aseana III
D. Macapagal Ave. cor. Aseana Avenue
Aseana City, Paranaque, Metro Manila

Local Civil Registrar
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village

Philippine Statistics Authority
P.O. Box No. 779, Manila
Philippines

Civil Registrar General
Philippine Statistics Authority
NSO Vidal Building
EDSA corner Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City

PUNTO! Central Luzon: July 18, 25 & August 1, 2019



Spotlight

Arci Pineda

Sarah Lahbati and Richard Gutierrez to wed next year!

SARAH LAHBATI says she and Richard Gutierrez will not have a destination wedding.

The couple are in the thick of wedding planning, and, at press time, they are around "50 percent" done with the process.

"Every day, I'm doing a little something for the wedding,"

"I'm planning a bachelorette party or I'm making a decision on a detail for the wedding.

"Parang every other day or every day, there's something related to the wedding that I have to do or talk to someone about." says Sarah.

The wedding will take place next year, and it will not be a destination wedding.

So far, she and Richard have had no arguments about the details involved in planning their wedding.

There is one wedding detail Richard hopes they avoid: large ornamental centerpieces on the reception table.

Sarah elaborates, "We always go to weddings and parties and one thing we noticed is, when there's a long table and there's big flowers or big lights or stuff in front of you, you can't see the person. We want to avoid that.

"He keeps telling me, make sure there's nothing long in front of people..."

"It's nothing crazy, nothing life-changing."

As for Sarah, the actress-performer wants her loved ones to have a good time at the wedding.

But most of all, the mother of two would like her wedding to be a celebration of their love.

"I hope it transcends through the event... Show them the love we have for each other."

□ □ □

ANJO DAMILES, who is known for being part of ABS-CBN shows Forevermore and Doble Kara, inks a contract with GMA Artist Center.

He signed a contract with GMA-7's talent arm, GMA Artist Center, on July 15, 2019.

During his contract signing, Anjo was joined by GMA Senior Assistant Vice President for Alternative Productions Gigi Santiago-Lara, GMA Artist Center senior talent manager Daryl Zamora, and Anjo's co-manager, Jonas Gaffud.

Before becoming a Kapuso, Anjo was a talent of Star Magic and ABS-CBN for five years, since 2014.

His Kapamilya shows included Forevermore (2014), Doble Kara (2015), La Luna Sangre (2017), The Promise of Forever (2017), and episodes of Maalaala Mo Kaya and Ipaglaban Mo.

On his Instagram account, Anjo posted photos during his contract signing.

In his caption, he thanked ABS-CBN for handling his career in the past.

He wrote (published as is),

"I am now finally a KAPUSO! Unang una po sa lahat gusto ko mag pasalamat kay God sa biyayang ito pangalawa maraming salamat po sa abs cbn at sa mga taong bumubuo dito.

"Sa mga boss, sa mga directors, sa production, staff, crew at shempre sa mga artista na mga nakatrabaho ko maraming maraming salamat po saiyong lahat!

"Sobrang dami ko pong natutunan.

Maraming salamat sa pag push sakín para gawin ko ang best ko tuwing nag shoshooot! Lahat po ng tinuro niyo sakín dadalhin ko po lagi yan at mas pag bubutihin ko pa ang craft ko para lalong mag excel!

"Sa mga taga hanga ko maraming salamat din saiyong, salamat sa walang tigil na pag suporta! Mahal na mahal ko po kayong lahat!

"To my GMA family! Salamat sa napaka init na pagtanggap! Salamat din sa @empireph. mercator @jonasempire.ph family ko sa support niyo."

GMA-7 and GMA Artist Center have yet to divulge Anjo's projects for the Kapuso network.

He will be seen in the Regal Films-produced movie titled Ang Henerasyong Sumuko sa Love with ABS-CBN actors Tony Labrusca, Albie Casino, and Jerome Ponce.



Sarah Lahbati

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