

Recto prods Palace on gov't salary increases before Xmas

BY DING CERVANTES

ANGELES CITY -- Government employees are on tenterhooks as Christmas approaches amid an appeal of Sen. Ralph Recto for Malacanang to push before Congress salary increases within the ending year.

"Mag-di-Disyembre na, ni anino ng Salary Standardization Law V (SSL V) wala pa. Mal-



Recto

PAGE 6 PLEASE

50-K sign petition vs. rice liberalization

ANGELES CITY- The recent United States Department of Agriculture's report that the country would outpace China and become the world's biggest rice importer this year has already elicited 50,000 signatures as of yesterday in a petition seeking to repeal the Rice Liberalization Law.

"As the world's top rice importer this year, poor farmers, consumers and various sectors submitted today 50,000 signatures for the 'Petisyon ng Mamamayan

para Ibasura ang Republic Act RA 11203 Rice Liberalization Law' for submission to House Speaker Allan Peter Cayetano and Committee on Agriculture and Food chairperson Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga," said the consumer

group Bantay Bigas in a statement yesterday.

The petition was initiated by Bantay Bigas, Amihan or the National Federation of Peasant Women, Anakpawis Partylist, Gabriela Women's Party, National Food Au-

PAGE 6 PLEASE

38 flagship projects completed by 2022

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CLARK FREEPORT -- Thirty-eight of the 100 flagship infrastructure projects of the administration will be completed by the end of President Duterte's term in 2022.

So confidently declared Vince Dizon, president-CEO of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and concurrent presidential adviser on flagship projects.

"This is our estimation, give or take, this is what we believe we can achieve," Dizon said in a weekly Palace economic briefing.

Dizon also said 22

PAGE 6 PLEASE

Congress bucks planned sugar import lib

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Perhaps learning from the dire outcome of rice liberalization, the Senate appears to be rejecting proposals to also liberalize sugar imports.

The newly formed Tanggol Asukal Network (TAN) has lauded majority members of the Philippine Senate for rejecting plans of the country's economic managers to liberalize sugar importation.

Antonio Flores, one of the spokespersons of

the network, said "we agree with the Senate resolution's contention that the planned sugar liberalization would have dire consequences on sugar workers and farmers."

TAN was formed by the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) and the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) on Nov. 8 together with other stakeholders in the sugar industry. It is com-

PAGE 7 PLEASE



SANTA'S COME TO TOWN. At SM City Olongapo Downtown bringing his bag of goodies for kids of the city. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

SEAG opens Nov. 30 but competitions start Nov. 22

CLARK FREEPORT -- The Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Phisgoc) said that while the formal opening of the 30th Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) is slated on Nov. 30, some competitions are to be held as early as Nov. 22.

This, even as Phisgoc officials held last Saturday a "pep rally" to motivate the workforce for successful hosting of the coming 11-nation SEAG.

House Speaker and Phisgoc chairman Alan Peter Cayetano told 527 workforce members to "work hard and come up with their best effort for the staging of the games."

The 527 members, mostly volunteers, are to be deployed in various venues in Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, Subic, and New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac.

"Kung ano ang ating itatanim, yun ang ating aanihin. We

PAGE 7 PLEASE



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Belle
Model Unit

Actual Photo

Group decries Chinese in Scarborough in the case of missing Pinoy fishers

BY DING CERVANTES

CLARK FREEPORT - The fishers group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said yesterday that the missing fishermen whose boat

sank off the waters of Western Luzon last Nov. 7 could have sought refuge at the Scarborough shoal were it not for Chinese presence there.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement yesterday that "Scarborough

Shoal could have offered safety for the fishermen victims... (as they) could have opted to seek refuge at the lagoon if not for the presence of Chinese vessels."

Pamalakaya noted that Scarborough Shoal used to

be "the traditional safe harbor for Filipino fishermen due to its calm condition amid turbulent weather."

"This was a major reason Zambales fishermen braved the water cannon assault of Chinese Coast Guard in March 2014. As of end of October, it was occupied by at least four Chinese vessels, as reported by the oil tanker Green Aura, which was warned to keep 10-nautical miles away from Scarborough Shoal," Hicap recalled.

He said "Chinese control of Scarborough Shoal is a strategic loss to Filipino fishermen, and now it spells disaster for those caught by big waves."

Pamalakaya also urged the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to "expedite the search and rescue operations for the remaining 13 Filipino.

Of the 14 ill-fated fisher-

men, only Angelito Epito Jr. has so far been rescued after he was found in the seas of Subic, Zambales, still clinging to a styro debris for two days after their boat FFB Three Sisters was sunk by strong waves in the area of the shoal on their way back to their homeport in Barangay Sisiman in Marivales, Bataan.

"Authorities must expedite their search and rescue operations to find the missing fishermen for them to return to their families," he said, even as he urged the government to provide for the needs of the missing fishermen's families in the meantime.

Pamalakaya also issued a "demand" for the Duterte government "to retake control of the shoal in the name of national sovereignty, apart from the advantage it offers to fishermen.



SCHOLARSHIP. Gov. Dennis "Delta" Pineda distributes scholarship grants to 4,645 students from several cities and municipalities of Pampanga.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUN JASO/PAMPANGA PIO

Gov. Delta distributes P14-M financial aid to students

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA – Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda distributed P13,935,000 to some 4,645 students under the Educational Financial Assistance Program (EFAP) yesterday (November 14).

The said program was facilitated by the Provincial Library led by Jasmine Carla Cordero, in coordination with the Provincial Treasurer's Office (PTO), at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center, here.

According to Governor Delta, education will always be one of the priorities of his administration.

"Still, atyu ke pamu ring Gov. Nanay, ing commitment mi kekayu hanggang mayari kayu, tuluy-tuloy ya ining educational assistance" he said.

He also encouraged them to focus on their studies and keep away from vices, such as alcohol and illegal drugs.

The students, meanwhile, expressed their gratitude to the governor for his initiative to help support their educational needs.

"Maraming-maraming salamat po. Dahil sa scholar na ito, nakapag-aral ako ng college," said Myla Lansangan, an orthopaedic student-beneficiary from the second district.

Despite Lansangan's disability, she still strives to finish her studies to achieve her dreams, and give back to her parents.

"Kung may pangarap, kahit may kapanasan, maaabot kapag nagpursigi," she furthered.

Moreover, Board Member Olga Frances "Fritzie" Dizon, chairperson of the committee on education, said that the provincial government will continue to create and implement programs for the students to ensure their bright future.

Also present in the event were Board Members Pol Balingit, Benjamin Jocson, Rosve Henson, Nelson Calara, Renato Mutuc, president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, and Min-alin Mayor Edgardo Flores, Pampanga Mayor's League (PML) president. – **Jasmine D. Jaso/Pampanga PIO**

Free HIV testing centers nationwide set Nov. 23

1 in Mabalacat

MABALACAT CITY -- This city will host one of the HIV free testing centers to be established nationwide on Nov. 23 in commemoration of World AIDS Day.

The center here will be located at the Lakan Community Center in BArangay Lakandula.

This, amid a report from the Department of Health confirming 1,111 new HIV cases last July, 51 of which covered people aged 25-34.

The free HIV testing is part of the project being launched by LoveYourself, Inc. and the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA), together with 10 community-based organizations nationwide to mark World AIDS Day, although this day is observed every Dec. 1

"Dubbed as "Know Your Status (KYS) and Play or #KYSandPlay2019, this national HIV testing day entails a free, fast and confidential HIV

test at 19 test locations nationwide for registrants to this link: bit.ly/KYSandPlay2019," the organizers said in a statement.

It said "this collaboration with PETA aims to strengthen the awareness campaigns of community-based organizations through highlighting the #ActingOnHIV drive of the theater institution."

Organizers said there will be five test locations in the National Capital Region, four in Luzon including one in Mabalacat, seven in the Visayas, and three in Mindanao.

The community-based organizations that joined forces for the project include Aves Love and Light, Bangaw Federation, Bisdak Pride, Decent Image of South Signal Association, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines – Iloilo Chapter, Juan Positive Movement, Kagay-an PLUS, LoveYourself, Inc., Mujer-LGBT Organization, Olympus Society of Davao, and Project H4 (Health. Help. Hope. Happiness). – **Ding Cervantes**

No port charges for 'overstaying' Viet fishers

BY MALOU DUNGGOG

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) clarified on Tuesday that it doesn't seek to impose port charges on Vietnamese fishing boats that sought shelter in Subic Bay due to bad weather last week.

SBMA senior deputy administrator Ramon O. Agregado said that the SBMA management has recommended to the Board not to impose port charges, which are imposed on all vessels docking or anchoring on the bay, in this case "for humanitarian considerations."

He said this has been endorsed by SBMA chair and administrator Wilma T. Eisma who is at the moment in the United States on a trade mission.

Agregado said the Nov. 7 letter by the SBMA Seaport Department to the Coast Guard Substation in Olongapo

that mentioned the imposition of port charges on the stranded fishing vessels "was simply a procedural reminder and a statement of policy, considering that the vessels entered Subic Bay without authorization."

"But even that letter, which was unfortunately interpreted by some as a threat, mentioned that the SBMA allows sheltering during such incidents," Agregado pointed out.

"It would be the height of insensitivity for anybody to fine these Vietnamese fishermen who only sought succor in our shores due to bad weather," he added.

According to a report from the SBMA Seaport's Port Operations Division, the Vietnamese fishing vessels entered Subic Bay on Nov. 6 without requesting for entry clearance from port authorities.

Officers from the SBMA Law Enforcement Department's Harbor Patrol



Two of the three Vietnamese fishing vessels that remain on Subic Bay in this photo taken on Tuesday. **PHOTO BY MALOU DUNGGOG**

and the Philippine Coast Guard found out upon boarding the vessels that the Vietnamese fishermen were not able to communicate with port authorities because no one among the crew could speak English.

Upon learning that the foreign fishermen were seeking shelter from the storm, Subic port officials allowed them entry and anchorage on the bay.

Agregado said the Vietnamese Em-

bassy in Manila had in fact requested concerned agencies of the Philippine Government to provide necessary assistance in case any Vietnamese fishermen sought shelter in Philippine waters because of the low-pressure area at that time.

However, the Embassy letter dated Oct. 31 did not reach Subic port authorities before the fishermen actually entered Subic Bay, he added.

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To the Point

Mother, beyond doubt

WE MAY have been called to play many roles in our lives, but beyond doubt – and I know that you will agree with me – that the role that requires the most courage, the most resolve, the most strength, is being a mother.

So, to all mothers and women...Remember that you are made for times like this and you are meant to survive even during the most difficult times.

To lead with great heart is inherent within every mother and every woman. That every trial, every difficulty, can be turned into an opportunity to lead with both strength and empathy. And this is what we all need to have – the kind of strength that draws from a deep well of love, compassion, humility, courage, and integrity.

(Vice President Leni Robredo on online trolls saying that she “lacked courage and resolve because I was only a ‘mother’ and a ‘woman.’”)

Budget bloat

HERE WE are, borrowing more than what we need, but we have a huge amount of unspent items from the budget every year ... Why are we appropriating or enacting the appropriations measure but we are not able to utilize the full potential of the budget?

If you plan poorly, you will not be able to utilize the appropriations as fast as enacted. Agencies don't have any idea and the heads can attest to this, that sometimes there are items in the budget that they don't know how to implement because they were inserted by legislators without consulting them.

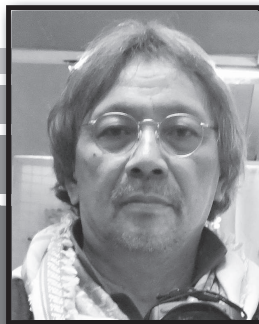
So, the result is projects are not implemented. If they are not implemented, there will be unused funds.

(Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on the continuing underspending of the national budget which leads to billions of unused funds.)

First bike

I OFTEN wonder whatever happened to my first bike. The bike that was my companion during those first years when my family had lost everything and I sold wares at the market every morning. That bike reminds me that success can be achieved through hard work, frugality, integrity, responsiveness to change, and most of all, boldness to dream.”

(John L. Gokongwei Jr., 1926-2019)



acaesar.blogspot.com

Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Opinion

Trashed to zero

PHILIPPINE CITY shows zero waste is achievable.

So screamed *Rappler* in an Oct. 13, 2019 story datelined Penang, Malaysia celebrating the City of San Fernando's success in waste management:

Is zero waste really achievable? San Fernando City in Pampanga leads Philippine cities in eliminating residual waste, or waste that cannot be recycled or composted, in a bid to reduce plastic pollution.

In a press briefing of #ZeroWaste cities on Sunday, October 13, San Fernando City Mayor Edwin Santiago shared how his city brought residual waste to just 20% from 85%.

Is zero waste really achievable? San Fernando City in Pampanga leads Philippine cities in eliminating residual waste, or waste that cannot be recycled or composted, in a bid to reduce plastic pollution.

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CSF is zero waste champion in Asia

So *Punto* shared the good news on Oct. 22, in a story coming out of Santiago's guesting at the *Balitaan* in the Capampangan in Media:

Santiago said he just came from Malaysia where CSF was recognized as zero waste champion after presenting the city's zero waste actions to thousands of delegates from different parts of the globe.

He said in attendance where ASEAN delegates, consumer associations, Europeans, the US, and Japan.

...Santiago said the city is not using plastic now since 2015 when the zero-waste campaign was fully implemented.

“Now, our residual waste is down to 22 percent,” he said.

*Santiago said the city's zero waste thrust was even featured in an international documentary on plastic pollution entitled: *The Story of Plastic...**

DENR shuts down 4 dumpsites in Pampanga

So blared a number of broadcast media, so screamed broadsheets and tabloids only last Nov. 12:

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday issued cease-and-desist orders against two municipalities and one city in Pampanga province for operating open dumpsites, which is strictly prohibited under the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda led the closure of four dumpsites in the municipalities of Bacolor and Porac, and the city of San Fernando.

Antiporda, together with the DENR-

Environmental Management Bureau in Central Luzon, padlocked the entrance gate of an open dumpsite at Brgy. Lara in San Fernando City...

No open dumpsite in San Fernando —Mayor EdSa

So press released the City of San Fernando on Nov. 12 too:

“We are not operating an open dumpsite. We only have the City Transfer Station.”

...City Environment and Natural Resources Officer Regina Rodriguez clarified that no dumpsite is operating in the city. The former dumpsite has been converted to a transfer station when it was rehabilitated through the city's greening program.

“We are fully implementing RA 9003. From the garbage collection, to the sorting and transferring, our system works. We are in partnership with the Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation who collects the garbage every day from our transfer station. We will never tolerate the existence of an open dumpsite here in San Fernando,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez also stressed that the transfer station was reviewed and approved by the DENR Region 3 pursuant to the Department's Administrative Order No. 09, series of 2006, or the “General Guidelines in the Closure and Rehabilitation of Open Dumpsite and Controlled Dump Facilities.”

Last August, the Environmental Management Bureau-3 issued a letter commending the initiatives of the city to hasten the implementation of the Ecological Waste Management Act of 2000.

The city was also one of the recipients of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government where “Environmental Management” is one of the criteria.

WHAT the DENR “commended” only last August, it damned in November!

There is more, much more than the eye sees here. Aye, in the context of the issue at hand, something really smells more than fishy here.

We see no simple instance of the proverbial “one man's trash is another man's treasure.” In this wise, of Antiporda seeing a dumpsite in Santiago's transfer station. Of the former – like the boy in that fable of the emperor's new clothes – seeing though the bareness of the City of San Fernando's claim to championing zero waste.

The burden of proof now is dumped on Santiago. Just wondering what *Rappler* has to say.

TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

Gregorio Del Pilar is born in Bulacan, Bulacan

ON NOVEMBER 14, 1875, Gregorio Del Pilar, one of the youngest generals during the 1896 Philippine Revolution against Spain, was born in Bulacan, Bulacan.

Popularly known as the “Boy General,” he became General Emilio Aguinaldo's confidante and right-hand man. Also casually known as “Goyo,” he came from a poor family and had to peddle rice cakes and even served as “houseboy” for his aunt until he finished his Bachelor's degree course from Ateneo de Manila University at age 20.

When he was 13 years old, Goyo became a messenger for his uncle, Deodato Arellano, who took the responsibility of distributing propaganda materi-

als to the different societies after his other uncle Marcelo Del Pilar left the country for Spain.

At age 21, Goyo joined the Philippine Revolutionary Forces against the Spanish rule in August 1896 under the leadership of Andres Bonifacio, as a field commander fighting Spanish garrisons in Bulacan.

A sharpshooter and a fearless soldier, Goyo's first major fight was in the Battle of Kakarong in Bulacan. From then, he was promoted time and again until he was made full general at the age of 23.

His bravery was so widespread that even the Americans recognized it, even asking for his presence during the peace conference between the Philippine Republic and the

American Occupation Forces.

During the Philippine-American War, he won in the Battle of Quingua, also in Bulacan, on April 23, 1899, killing the highly-decorated Col. John M. Stotsenburg.

On December 2, 1899, Del Pilar died at the Battle of Tirad Pass, where he was earlier sent by Aguinaldo together with 60 soldiers to secure the narrow and perilous passageway so that Aguinaldo and his men could retreat safely to the north. With his body unburied for days and exposed to the elements, an American officer, Lt. Dennis P. Quinlan, gave the body a traditional U.S. military burial. On Del Pilar's tombstone, Quinlan inscribed this description: “An Officer and a Gentleman.”



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Halo-halo
Ding Cervantes

On Ghosts

PURGATORY, THE “place” where many still on earth will pass through, is also the place where ghosts come from. Yes, there have been ghosts even before history put them on record and I suppose there will always be until the end of the world when all in Purgatory are delivered up to Heaven.

In his earthly lifetime, St. Padre Pio had encounters with ghosts. The first ones caused him to shiver, until he got used to them because of their frequency of manifestations to as for his intercessions so that they could speed up their purgation and shoot up to the Eternal Bliss.

One day while praying alone, Padre Pio opened his eyes to see an old man standing there. “I could not imagine how he could have entered the friary at this time of night since all the doors are locked,” he later recalled.

Then, he asked the ghost: “Who are you? What do you want?”

The man responded, “Padre Pio, I am Pietro Di Mauro, son of Nicola, nicknamed Precoco. I died in this friary on the 18th of September, 1908, in cell number 4, when it was still a poorhouse. One night, while in bed, I fell asleep with a lighted cigar, which ignited the mattress and I died, suffocated and burned. I am still in purgatory. I need a holy Mass in order to be freed. God permitted that I come and ask you for help.”

Pio replied, “Rest assured that tomorrow I will celebrate Mass for your liberation.” Then the man left.

The following day, Padre Pio dug up records and found out that the ghost had told him the truth. He thus concelebrated a Mass for him

Padre Pio had once revealed that “As many souls of the dead come up this road [to the monastery] as that of the souls of the living.”

Then there’s the case of mystic Maria Simma of Sontagg, Austria (1915-2004). She was a God-fearing Catholic who lived simply and had more ghost visitors than humans in her lifetime.

She recounted that the ghosts, or holy souls as she would say, were uniform in telling her that the greatest help for them that they can obtain from those here on earth is the offering of holy Mass. Next to the Mass, the holy Rosary and the Stations of the Cross are very beneficial to them.

“Any sacrifice we make – even the smallest ones – offered specifically for them have a great value in the eyes of God, and greatly lessen

their sufferings and time in purgatory. The poor souls have told her that even the smallest prayer or sacrifice is like giving a cool glass of water to a parched sojourner travelling in the driest desert,” said the website mysticsofthechurch.com.

The website site the ghosts “normally appear to her in their normal clothes, that is, the ones that they most often wore during their lifetime, and they often have the appearance of one earnestly begging and desiring help. Sometimes they appear somewhat distraught but this presumably is to elicit compassion on the part of Maria. They normally appear to her looking as they did in the prime of their life, however children and teenagers always appear as they did right before their deaths. And while there are indeed some children in purgatory, their Purgatory is normally not very long or painful, since during their lifetimes they often could not have committed any grave sin since they did not attain much understanding or discernment, and are therefore not accountable to the extent that an adult is.”

“The holy souls have also told her that there are many, many degrees in purgatory, and that the lower parts of purgatory are the most difficult and the most purifying, and this is where those with grave (severe) sins go--that is, grave sins that have not been forgiven in the sacrament of Confession. As each soul makes reparation for his/her sins that they have committed against God and their fellow man, they are slowly purified and therefore they slowly make progress to the higher levels of purgatory. The souls that appear to Maria are almost always souls that are residing in the higher levels of purgatory. Essentially, the more repentant and sorrowful one is for the sins committed against God and neighbor during one’s lifetime, the quicker one progresses from the lower to the higher degrees of purgatory,” the site also noted.

And their greatest complaint? Abandonment by their loved ones on earth. And so sometimes they come, even in the dead of the night, to remind us they still exist and in need of our help.

Ing kasalesayan ning Kapampangan (The history of Pampanga)

BY FR. EDILBERTO SANTOS
PART 5

KABANATA 1A

Kamalayang Kapampangan

Balikdan tamu itang panaun a itamu mung Kapampangan ding makatuknang king karinan tang iti. Itamu mung Kapampangan ding atyu keti.

Malambat pa ita bayu dakatamu luban ding Hapon o Japanese (1941). Malambat pa ita bayu dakatamu luban ding Amerikanu (1898). Malambat pa ita bayu dakatamu luban ding Kastila (1571).

Kanita, bayu dinatang itang banuang 1941, itamung Kapampangan ala ta pang kamalemale karing panagkas da ring kawal a Hapon a “Kura! Kura! Bakaero!” at king sakit ning tampaling da kabang malmura lang makanyan. Ala ta pang kamalemale king dapat dang tampalasan a iatsa re babo ing bingut at sapuan de ketang pataram a makakabit king karelang riple. Ala ta pang kamalayang Hapon a anti kanta. Ing kekatamu, kamalayan yang Kapampangan.

Kanita, bayu dinatang itang banuang 1898, itamung Kapampangan ala ta pang kamalemale karing talaturung mibansagang

“Thomasites” ampo ketang aklat a “Pepe and Pilar” nung nukarin makasulat ing anti kanini: “I am Pepe. I am a little boy. I am Pilar. I am a little girl. I am Nena. I am a little girl too.” Ala ta pang kamalemale tungkul kang Abraham Lincoln at king kayang Gettysburg Address nung nu no simbitlan detang amanung “the government of the people by the people and for the people.” Ala ta pang kamalayang Amerikanu. Ing kekatamu, kamalayan yang Kapampangan.

Kanita, bayu dinatang itang banuang 1571, itamung Kapampangan ala ta pang kamalemale kareng mistulang pialben a paniglon a mipamansagang “fiesta,” “procesion,” “misa” at aliua pang “ceremonias” kambe ring dalit a “Kyrie eleison” at “Dios te Salve.” E pa linub king keketamung kamalayan ing makipagkal at makipatayan karing kalupa tang taung makasaut karing aliuang karinan. Kakaluguran tala reta. Ala ta pang kamalayang Kastila a mailig manalangin kabang makipatayan at mailig makipatayan kabang manalangin. Ing kekatamu, kamalayan yang Kapampangan.
(Abatan ya ing kasuglung.)



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

Pamiyampang Puge

BISTAMAN balu nang mausta ning Irwin
Ing antimong aslag ning aldo, ngana pin
Ding mekabasa king pangane na niting
Aklat, limitadu la munamang tambing,
Dapot ining kadua beit ne pa mu rin.

Nung king minuna nang sinulat a libru
A pemansagan nang ‘Iniang Malati Ku’
Karing dakal, iti minie yang kusuelu,
Katuki nang ‘Iniang Mangalati Tamu’
Pihu, lalu ye pang akaparan ustu.

Ing kekata yampang niting kapagalan
Karing sabla iti makasaup dakal
Uling nung ala nang ken mangangas palual
Librung anti reti a mabie pamasan,
Ala nang mabiasa king Sabi tang menan.

Nung e ne magamit sisuan tang Salita,
Ing pangakilala tamu lubus matda
Bilang meto’ lipi keti king masala;
Inia mangaintulid mu rening maluka
A pigpuyatan na dapat lang mabasa.

At den magsilbi la waring *salva vida*
King malulumud a pikabalan mana
Busal ding aliwang lengguaheng bitbit da
Ding sampid mu keti a ngeni ila na
Ring anting sasakal king bie na’t inawa.

Kaministilan mu karing Kapampangan,
Ing sukat deng sesen, linangan, lingapan
Ing Amanu, anti ing karening kambal
A kasulatan a pilit nang pepalual,
At milunsad keti king mal tang balayan.

Inia uli reti, masampat a puge
Ing keya malugud a kakung ibabie
King sipagan niti a’yalang kayarle
At malasakit ban ing banal nang pake
Karing aduang obra lubus managumpel!

Malagad na la mu ring anti kang Nucum
Ing pagsikapan deng isulat ing tungkul
King bie rang delanan, anti rening librung
Pipagalan na at dekayan panaun
Apalimbag na’t pigastusan maragul.

E biru-biru king bie ring talasulat
Ing anti la kareng maulagang aklat
Ding pagkapilitan da reting isulat,
Pablasang bukud king makitagle bayat,
Ing kakambal niti e ditak a puyat.

Inia naman ikeng kapatad na niti
King paniulat bina ming ipagmapuri
Ing atin pang Irwin Nucum angga ngeni
Lilintang, gagambul king mana tang Sabi
A e sukat matda nanumang maliari.

Kabalen, agkatan da kayung tumagun
Keng a beinte kuaru ya’y ti king Robinsons,
Ban ing pamilunsad karing aduang librung
Akda na asaksian ta’y tang gatpanapun
Na ning bulan a’yti ken king mesabing ‘Mall’.

38 flagship projects completed by 2022

FROM PAGE 1

out of 100 key infrastructure projects are “partially operational or substantially completed,” while the remaining 40 percent would be completed “beyond 2020.”

It was learned that of the 100 big-ticket infrastructure projects, 35 are underway, 32 will commence construction in the next six to eight months, 21 are in the advanced stages of government approval, and the remaining 12 are in advanced stages of feasibility study.

Dizon said roughly P4.3 trillion or half of the P9 trillion that will be earmarked for the infrastructure program will be spent for the implementation of the flagship projects.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon claimed last Tuesday that the Duterte administration’s ambitious

“Build, Build, Build” program is a “dismal failure.”

But Dizon debunked the senator’s claim, emphasizing the current administration has so far completed several infrastructure projects.

Among the completed projects are North Luzon Expressway Harbor Link Segment 10, Davao del Norte’s Governor Miranda Bridge, Laguna Lake Highway, Isabela’s Pigalo Bridge, Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway-Pozorrubio, Bohol-Panglao International Airport, Cagayan de Oro Passenger Terminal, Communications System/Air Traffic Management, and the New Clark City Phase 1A, Dizon said.

“There is a lot of activity in construction, and in particular, a lot of activity in public sector construction, meaning, in government construction or government proj-

ects,” he added.

“So, I just want to emphasize the point: Is ‘Build, Build, Build’ a failure? Absolutely not. And the numbers speak for themselves. Construction is up. Public spending on infrastructure is up. And this has led to a faster economic growth,” Dizon pointed out. “Numbers don’t lie.”

Dismal

Contrary to Drilon’s allegation that only nine of the “Build, Build, Build” projects have started construction, Dizon said it was the previous Aquino government which showed “dismal” performance in boosting the infrastructure sector.

Dizon noted that from 2016 to 2018, the Duterte administration has already spent nearly P1 trillion, compared to P380 billion spent by its predecessor.

“The state of infrastructure when the Pres-

ident took over was dismal. I mean, we easily forget,” he said.

“When the President launched ‘Build, Build, Build,’ through the economic team way back in late 2016, the plan to spend more on infrastructure has been happening,” Dizon added.

Despite its accomplishments in improving the infrastructure sector in the country, the government is not yet satisfied with its performance, as it is convinced it can do more, Dizon remarked.

He said President Duterte has already directed his economic team to “revisit” the roster of initial flagship projects, in an effort to hasten the implementation of the “Build, Build, Build” program.

“What we wanted to do was look at the list, revisit it. Why? Because it’s the halfway term of the President and we

want to be able to do more and we want to be able to fast-track and even speed up the infrastructure program in the second half of the term of the President,” he explained.

To clarify issues hounding the key infrastructure projects being pushed by the current administration, Dizon clarified that there was no promise to finish the completion of all the 100 key infrastructure projects under Duterte’s watch.

Dizon said it was “impossible” to finish all the infrastructure projects within six years.

“We wanted to rationalize because you know, infrastructure projects are not easy to

do. They require a lot of planning. They require long and very tedious feasibility studies, detailed planning. And it takes time,” he said.

Meanwhile, House committee on ways and means chair, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, said a proposal for special powers that will be granted for three years to expedite the projects under Build, Build, Build is now being considered.

House Bill 5456, or the Flagship Emergency Act of 2019, seeks to give the President powers to facilitate the procurement of right-of-way (ROW) acquisition that slows down the implementation of government projects.

NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that **WINNIE SAGCAL SANTOS**, of legal age, Filipino, married, resident of 110 Mamatitang, Mabalacat City and sole heir of **JUDITH S. SAGCAL** who died intestate on January 28, 2019 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication on her estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 7, Blk. 5 of the cons. subd. plan Pcs-03-000868, being a portion of consolidated Lots 6224-A & 624-B (LRC) Psd-60999 & Lot 228, Mabt. Cad. LRC Rec. No.) situated in the Mun. of Mabalacat, Prov. of Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 226881-R in the Registry of Deeds of Pampanga, before Notary Public Mark Andrew M. Santiago as per Doc No. 1690, Page No. 27, Book No. IV, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 7, 14 & 21, 2019

Republic of the Philippines CITY CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE 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 **GLORIA TENTI OCAMPO** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **ELORIA** to **GLORIA** in the birth certificate of **ELORIA TENTI** who was born on April 9, 1966 at Mabalacat, Pampanga and whose parents are **Gregorio Tenti** and **Benita Terrenio**.

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:
PERLA S. HALILI
Assistant City Civil Registrar

Punto! Central Luzon: November 7 & 14, 2019

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

RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH,

RELITO RAZON y AGUAS,
Petitioner,

-versus-

R-ANG-19-03707-SP

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF ANGELES CITY AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL, Respondents.

x-----x

ORDER

A verified Petition dated October 8, 2019 and file on October 9, 2019 through counsel, Atty. Raul F. Macalino praying that an Order/Decision be issued directing the Civil Registrar of Angeles City and the Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority to correct the error in the Certificate of Live Birth of the petitioner under item No. 6 for the Date of Birth from “June 19, 1963” to “December 19, 1959”.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court hereby: (a) sets the case for hearing on December 18, 2019 at 1:30 o’clock in the afternoon; (b) order petitioner (1) to serve within seventy-two (72) hours from receipt hereof copies of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General of the Philippines at 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, Office of the City Prosecutor, Angeles City and Local Civil Registrar, Angeles City; (c) order all persons interested in this petition to appear on said date and time before this court, Regional Trial Court, Branch 60, Angeles City and to show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted; (d) direct the Solicitor General to enter his appearance in this case for the State, within seventy-two (72) hours from receipt of this Order; and directs the Clerk in charge of this court to furnish copies hereof the petitioner, his counsel, the Solicitor General, the Civil Registrar of Angeles City, the City Prosecutor, Angeles City and the Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City.

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

SO ORDERED.
Angeles City, October 9, 2019.

ERICK A. SADURAL
Assisting Judge

cc:
Atty. Raul F. Macalino III
Relito A. Razon
Prosecutor Tapnio
Office of the Solicitor General/
LCR, Angeles City/PSA/publication

Punto! Central Luzon: November 14, 21 & 28, 2019

50-K sign petition vs. rice liberalization

FROM PAGE 1

thority Employees Association, and Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon-Nueva Ecija.

Bantay Bigas spokesperson Cathy Estavillo said “signatures were gathered in the top rice producing provinces including Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Iloilo, Camarines Sur, Tarlac and Leyte and other provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao as well as in Metro Manila.”

She named no less than 15 organizations of farmers, fishermen, women, urban poor, consumers, and workers which backed the petition.

“The call of the farmers, consumers and ordinary citizens is very clear. In a short time, we were able to gath-

er 50,000 signatures of people who have remained hopeful that Congress would listen to the Filipino people, especially the farmers who have been seriously dislocated by the rice liberalization law,” Estavillo said.

She noted that a bill pushing for the repeal of RA 11203 or HB 476 has already been filed in the Congress as authored by Gabriela Women’s Party Rep. Arlene Brosas.

“More than seven months have passed after the law’s implementation, farmers have become bankrupt in the two cropping seasons yet the Duterte government has only provided P15,000 loan each for farmers owning one hectare of land below and a commitment to give P5,000 worth of

‘cash gift’ this December. The government is treating farmers like beggars,” she lamented.

Bantay Bigas blamed the Duterte government for “blindly following its commitment to the World Trade Organization-Agreement on Agriculture at the expense of the country’s food security and self-sufficiency.”

“Being the world’s number one rice importer is not something to be proud of. It is ironic for an agricultural country and an insult to local rice farmers. This is a manifestation of a rice industry abandoned by its very own government by implementing neoliberal policies,” the group said.

The bill, filed by Makabayan lawmakers, include production support program thru social-

ized credit, farm inputs and machinery, accelerated infrastructure development including irrigation and post-harvest facilities, and research and development as its core programs with a budget allocation of P185 billion for its three-year implementation. The bill also proposed a P310 billion budget for National Food Authority for palay procurement to stabilize farmgate price and retail prices.

“We urge various farmer organizations, consumer groups and other rice stakeholders for an unwavering commitment to defend the Philippine rice industry by raging against Rice Liberalization Law, and attain genuine food security and self-sufficiency via RIDA,” Estavillo also said.

—Ding Cervantes

Recto prods Palace on gov’t salary...

FROM PAGE 1

mig na simoy ng hangin, wala pa rin ang panukala na nagtataas ng sahod ni titser ang ating naamoy,” Recto said in a statement furnished Punto yesterday.

He added: “When will it come out of the Palace kitchen? ‘Please expedite’

is not one marginal note we would like to send them, but a big shout out.”

Recto recalled that Malacañang promised to increase the salaries of civil servants through SSL V, the Duterte Edition.

“The money for the increases, in the amount of P31.1 billion, has been pre-parked in the 2020 national budget. The money is there, the bill on its use will come later. And there is nothing

wrong with putting the cart before the horse, as it assures government employees that a salary increase is a done deal,” he said.

Recto said “the SSL V would require a separate law” and that “It cannot be a rider in the General Appropriations Act and cannot be implemented via an executive order. It can only be authorized by a congressional act.”

“After the uniformed services had their salary increases two years ago, government is duty-bound to extend the same to civilian government employees. It was a promise made to them, that after their uniformed counterparts have received theirs, the one for them will follow soon. It is time to redeem this promissory note,” he stressed.

“I can only surmise that the Palace is having a hard time calibrating the increases, and apportioning how much each one would get. And, yes, this is not an easy exercise to pull off, as the government pay scale has 33 grades, with 8 steps each, meaning 258 different pay grades must be attached with new amounts,” he noted.

Recto said that “the pie, when cut, will result in not so big slices. P31.1 billion divided by 1.391 million civilian employees, and divided further by 13 months will result in an average P1,718 monthly increase per employee.”

“Ito ay sa unang taon na downpayment. Baka naman sa susunod na mga taon – as the SSL V will be paid out in several yearly installments

– ay mas malaki na,” he added.

Recto said “our early Christmas wish is for the Palace to submit the bill soon, so that Congress can debate on it, and bring it to the President’s table for his signature before Christmas Day.”

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Spotlight Arci Pineda

Nathalie Hart is back in showbiz via a steamy love scene!

SEXY ACTRESS and StarStruck V alumna Nathalie Hart returns to acting via the iWant original movie *Barbara: Reimagined*.

Nathalie and JC de Vera did a steamy sex scene for the modern version of *Patayin Mo Sa Sindak Si Barbara*. The lead stars explained why they had to do a love scene in this reboot titled *Barbara: Reimagined*.

Barbara: Reimagined is the modern version of the classic horror film *Patayin Mo Sa Sindak si Barbara*, which top-billed Susan Roces as Barbara in 1973.

It was in June 2018 when Nathalie announced her pregnancy. She gave birth to a baby girl last February 2019. She said, "Masaya po ako na I'm back to work and I hope I can get more jobs and yun lang po, very happy."

Nathalie's family also expressed support for her comeback.

"Okay lang po sila, they're fine. I mean, they're happy that I'm working again, masaya sila."

For her comeback, Nathalie will play the title character Barbara who was played by Susan Roces in the 1973 version. The original movie revolved around Barbara (Susan). Her sister Ruth (Rosanna Ortiz) killed herself after finding out that her husband, Fritz (Dante Rivero), is having an affair with Barbara. Ruth then returns as a ghost to haunt Barbara.

In 1995, Star Cinema did a remake that dropped the word "Mo" in the title. *Patayin Sa Sindak si Barbara* starred Lorna Tolentino as Barbara, and Dawn Zulueta as her ghost sister.

Kris Aquino also played Barbara in a 2008 TV remake under the Susan Roces Cinema Collection presentation of ABS-CBN.

For *Barbara: Reimagined*, Mariel de Leon plays Barbara's sister, Karen, while JC de Vera portrays James, Karen's husband and Barbara's true love.

Being the fourth actress to play Barbara, Nathalie said that she watched clips from previous incarnations of the movie for her research.

"Noong time po na ginagawa ko ito, I did watch some clips pero hindi ko talaga yung inaral paano sila umacting. I just did it my own way because as an actress, you have to be different among the rest and ginawa ko lang po ang trabaho ko, inaral ko po ang script."

"Natakatok din naman ako sa sarili ko paminsan minsan sa mga pinaggagawa ko, so baka matakot rin mga tao. With the script naman, with my character, nakakatakot naman yung mga mangyayari, so depende na lang po yun kung makikita na lang po sa pelikula."

Before Nathalie took a break from showbiz, she was known for her sexy movies such as *Tisay* and *Sin Island*. When Nathalie was asked if there will also be love scenes in *Barbara: Reimagined*, since the first three incarnations did not have any steamy scene.

Nathalie answered with a smile, "Yes, meron!"

JC then quipped, "Steamy!"

Both Nathalie and JC explained that the bed scenes are needed to keep the story afloat for the new version, especially since they are tackling infidelity.

JC said, "Kasi tungkol sa ano yun, e, it's part of the jealousy between Barbara and her sister."

"So kailangan naming gawin yung scene na yun para ma-magnify talaga yung galit ng sister ni Barbara sa kanya."

Nathalie added, "Kailangan magselos siya sa akin, kaya kailangan naming gawin yung eksena na yun para mas magalit siya sa akin."

"Kumbaga kasi nagpakamatay siya, pumunta ako sa bahay niya, and ako yung pumalit na asawa agad so kailangan magalit talaga siya."

JC added, "Para yung pagbabalik ni Karen, yung sister niya, mas malakas, mas nakakatakot, mas nakakanginig."

JC stressed that the scene was not done just because Nathalie used to do sensual scenes in her past movies, and JC also did intimate scenes in some of his projects.

"Kailangan talaga naming gawin yung eksenang yun not for the sake na nanggaling sa sexy si Nat, and hindi naman ibig sabihin gumagawa ako non, kailangan namin ipasok sa movie."

"Kailangan lang talaga yung eksenang yun para magconnect talaga and ma-magnify yung ginagawa ng both characters."

Director Benedict Mique took over the project after the movie's supposed director, Christopher Ad Castillo, died to cardiac arrest in August 2018. Direk Benedict pointed out that the new version will be the same, except that the new Barbara has a sexier appeal than the past three versions.

"Ganun pa rin po kasi that's the basic premise ng Barbara and we cannot take that away. Yun yung magic ng Barbara, e."

"Ang na-add lang, kasi we have Nathalie, we saw Nathalie, we had a meeting, nagulat ako, ang sexy mo, mas sexy ka pa ngayon."

"Sabi namin, yun ang difference nito, may sex appeal itong Barbara na ito. Very sexier version. Sensual version, parang ganun."

"Ang tagal ng discussion namin noong nagsu-shoot ng love scene niya, e, ang daming tanong."

"Tapos noong shinoot namin, nagulat si Nathalie, tapos na. But it's nice, makikita niyo, it was nicely done and bagay siya."



Nathalie Hart

Mag-asawa, anak patay sa sunog

NI JOHNNY REBLANDO

OLONGAPO CITY - Patay ang mag-asawa kasma na ang kanilang 2-taong-gulang na anak na lalaki nang tupukin ng apoy ang isang gusali na tindahan ng mga piyesa ng sasakyan na kanila rin tinutulugan sa lungsod na ito noong Miyerkules ng umaga.

Kinilala ang nasawing mag-asawa na sina Mariano at Aira Panganiban at kanilang anak na si Ricardo na natagpuan na magkakayakap sa ika-apat na palapag na kanilang tinutulugan.

Ayon kay Florencio Cureg, may-ari ng establisimiyento, aabot naman umano sa humigit kumulang sa P50 milyon halaga ng mga piyesa ng mga sasakyan at mga ari-arian ang nasunog gayundin din ang halaga ng gusali.

Himala namang nakaligtas ang alagang aso ng mga biktima na nagtago sa ilalim ng mesa sa ikalawang palapag ng gusali, ayon kay city fire marshal Chief Inspector Arvin Christian Santos.

Sa imbestigasyon, nagsimula ang sunog bandang alas-5 ng umaga sa unang palapag ng gusali na mabilis na umakyat sa ika-apat na palapag kung saan naroroon ang mga biktima.

Posible umanong hindi na nagawang makababa pa ng mga biktima dahil sa apoy na nagmumula sa ibaba, wala rin umanong fire exit ang nasa-bing palapag na napapalibutan ng terrace grill.

Hindi naman naging madali para sa mga kagawad ng pamatay sunog ang pag apula sa apoy dahil na rin sa ilang mga produkto na nasunog katulad ng langis at mga gulong na para lalo pang lumaki ang apoy, dumagdag pa umano ang makipot na daanan sa mga palapag ng gusali.

Ang sunog ay tumagal ng mahigit sa tatlong oras bago ito idineklarang fire under control.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon sa pinagmulan ng apoy.

Congress bucks...

FROM PAGE 1

posed mainly of sugar workers and small planters, which seeks to create a mass movement against sugar import liberalization.

TAN also urged the Senate "to conduct a hearing on the planned import liberalization and invite sugar workers and small planters to said activity."

"The Senate should also hear the plight of the sugar workers who are one of the most lowliest paid workers in the country and small planters who seldom are provided aid by the government through subsidies unlike their counterparts in Thailand," it said.

Earlier two resolutions in the Philippine Congress were also passed against sugar import liberalization. The first was filed by 21 legislators from sugar producing provinces led by Rep. Francisco Benitez and Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano.

This was followed by a resolution filed by the Makabayan bloc which described the economic managers as "insensitive to the plight of sugar workers and planters."

TAN also called on "all those against sugar import liberalization, they be workers, planters or plain consumers to unite against this said measure to ensure not only the livelihood of its workers and planters but to also to save the Philippine sugar industry against the onslaughts of neo-liberalism."

-Ding Cervantes

SEAG opens Nov...

FROM PAGE 1

worked so hard for more than a year, itanim po natin itong SEA Games and the coming years and decades aanihin ng ating mga young athletes at next generation ito," Cayetano said.

The opening ceremony of the SEAG is set Nov. 30 at the Philippine Arena in Bocaue, Bulacan and will run until Dec. 11. The closing ceremony is slated at New Clark City.

Phisgoc organizers said, however, that the games will begin much earlier with polo scheduled to start on Nov. 22 while men's football, netball and floorball will kick off Nov. 25.

"We appreciate your work. This (pep rally) is to celebrate you. We are all part of history," Phisgoc chief operating officer Ramon Suzara told the volunteers. -Ding Cervantes



SM MALLS

Kabalikat sa pagpapalago ng turismo ng Nueva Ecija

NI ARMAND M. GALANG

CABANATUAN CITY - Agrikultura pa rin ang pangunahing pagkakakilanlan ng Nueva Ecija kaya naman hindi ito mawawala sa pagsusulong ng turismo ng lalawigan.

Ngunit sa ngayon ay isang tatak o branding ng turismo ang inilalarga ng probinsiya at mahalagang bahagi dito ang mga mall lalo na ang SM, ayon sa hepe ng provincial tourism office na si Atty. Jose Maria Ceasar San Pedro.

“Our priority sa office namin is to really capacitate the stakeholders. Para po maramdaman nila yung presensya g toursm office,” ani San Pedro matapos dumalo at nagbigay ng mensahe sa Christmas launch ng SM City Cabanatuan kamakailan.

Sa pagpasok ng 2020, dag-sag niya, ay itotodo ng kanilang tanggapan ang implementasyon ng “tourism brand” na kanilang ginawa. “May-roon na po tayong branding na masasabi ko na one of the provinces sa Central Luzon na mayroon tayong definite brand,” dugtong ng opisyal.

“Kasi ang SM po ay napaka-importante naming partner kasi makikita niyo through SM yung implementasyon ng ating Nueva Ecija tourism brand and through this, mas mapo-promote po natin ang Nueva Ecija sa ibang mga lugar,” paliwanag ng tourism official.

Nagpahayag naman kaagad ng suporta sa programa si Ian Zekiel Balao, regional manager for operations ng SM. Alinsunod na rin daw ito sa kanilang tradisyon na tumulong sa progreso ng bawat komunidad.

Samantala, ngayong Kapaskuhan ay nakatutok pa rin ang SM malls sa pagbibigay saya at inspirasyon, lalo na sa mga kabataan, ayon kay Balao.

“Our drive really is to put a smile sa mga sa ating mga bata kasi this is the time for them,” sabi Balao. Paliwanag niya, ang magagandang alaal na iniwan nito sa mga bata ay bahagi ng pag-unlad ng mga ito.

Muling hinikayat ni Balao ang mga mall goers na bumili ng Bears of Joy kung saan ay may ipagkaloob na regalo para saga mahihirap na kabataan.

Samantala, kabilang sa mga personalidad na dumalo sa magkasunod na Christmas launch ng SM Megacenter at SM City Cabanatuan ay sina board member Jojo Matias, city councilors Peewee Mendoza, Junnie Del Rosario, Joselito Roque, Brigida Pili, DTI provincial director, Armando Giron at provincial tourism advocate.

Kaugnay nito, paliwanag ni San Pedro, sa mga nalalabing araw na ito ng taon ay mapansin ang masiglang gayak ng mga lokal na pamahalaan tulad ng engrangeng pailaw sa San Jose City, Science City of Muñoz, Gapan City, Lumang Kapitolyo sa Cabanatuan City at iba pang lugar.

SM City Cabanatuan opens Christmas season with gigantic golden display

A 45-FOOT TALL Christmas Tree surrounded by sparkling golden art inspired decoration of thousands of flickering lights, hundreds of glittering christmas balls and 20 giant majestic golden bears highlight this year’s Christmas Launch at SM City Cabanatuan on Sunday (November 10).

Ian Ezekiel Balao SM regional operations manager said the celebration is just the start of many fun-filled activities at the mall this season.

“We encourage the whole communi-

ty to celebrate this season with SM mall here from the wide selection of gift finds, gift giving through Bears of Joy campaign up to biggest events that brings the spirit of Christmas more sparkling.”

The event gathered spectators because of the powerful singing performances of artist Frenchie Dy who sang with the audience and expresses her happiness to visit Cabanatuan City and become part of this year’s Christmas event.

At SM Megacenter, as they wish to bring back family bonding replaced by

modern technology. They give a scene of hanging out together in a theme park with family and friends, experiencing exciting rides and walking through sparkling alleys as a great ambiance on their carnival inspired centerpiece. The launch happened last friday (November 8).

Carol Licup assistant mall manager said that this mall attraction will give so much excitement and magical feeling to children and to mall goers.

“Carnival is a happy place and so at SM malls as we combine this two happy place into one, definely it will the best place in the province of Nueva Ecija” said Licup.

The events was grace by local government officials like BM Jojo Matias, city councilors Peewee Mendoza, Junnie Del Rosario, Joselito Roque, Brigida Pili DTI provincial director, Atty. Jose Maria Ceasar San Pedro Provincial tourism officer, Armando Giron a provincial tourism advocate and other well known local personality.

SM also promotes their charity campaign the SM Bears of Joy wherein shoppers can buy 2 bears for only 200 pesos. One to keep and the other one to be donated to less fortunate children this Christmas.

The next major event is the Sky Dance Holiday Drone Show that will happen on November 23 and 24 at SM Megacenter and SM City Cabanatuan respectively. – Sheen Crisologo/PR



SM City Olongapo Central with a City of Angels theme has a 30-ft grand Christmas Tree accented with white and gold colors. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Biggest Lantern of Hope at SM City Pampanga

NOW ON its 5th year, SM City Pampanga’s **Biggest Lantern of Hope** brings light and music to the **Christmas Capital of the Philippines**. The Pampanga Eye, the biggest and tallest ferris wheel in the Philippines is set to light up this holiday season through a pyro musical show as it brightens the sky in a grand magical firework display, colorful dancing lights synced with the all-time favorite Christmas carols.

As the **Christmas Capital of the Philippines**, Pampanga is the birthplace of the giant lanterns that light up the holiday skies. The largest incarnations of the parol, these dazzling handcrafted Christmas lanterns symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. Each lantern stands about 20 feet and features more than 5,000 lights. They are a sight to behold as with each parol displaying a kaleidoscope of light, music, and color.

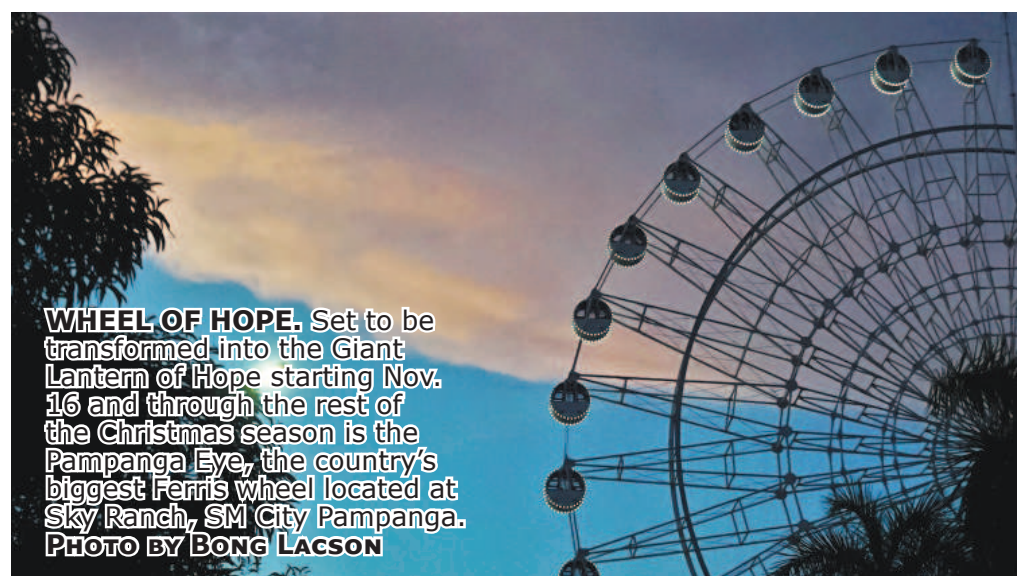
This year, discover a whole new display of colorful lights and fireworks synced with music as the Biggest Lantern of Hope lights up the sky once again. With this, the 65 meter (or 213 feet) tall **ferris wheel** sparkles with 17,664 dancing led lights as well as additional colorful fireworks on the inner part of the wheel, on-ground and aerial fireworks.

Starting November 16, park guests can enjoy a spectacular 10-minute pyro technic musical show that will take place at The Amphitheatre starting 6 o’clock in the evening. Catch this grand pyro-musical display for 4 consecutive Saturdays on November 23, November 30 and December 7.

The Sky Ranch at SM City Pampanga is the first amusement park in North Luzon

which brings great family fun with exhilarating rides, and exciting games where, park guests can bring home stuffed toys and other prizes. The park is open to the public from 12NN to 12 Midnight on weekends and 3 PM and 12 Midnight on weekdays.

The **Biggest Lantern of Hope** is one of the many exciting holiday attractions of SM City Pampanga. –SMPP



WHEEL OF HOPE. Set to be transformed into the Giant Lantern of Hope starting Nov. 16 and through the rest of the Christmas season is the Pampanga Eye, the country’s biggest Ferris wheel located at Sky Ranch, SM City Pampanga. PHOTO BY BONG LACSON



AVENUE OF STARS. A stretch of the Capitol Avenue where Megaworld's Capital Town project in the City of San Fernando is lighted up with white lanterns adding up to the joyful Yule atmosphere in the renowned Christmas Capital of the Philippines. **PHOTO BY BONG LACSON**

Double digit growth in core businesses boosts Megaworld's 9-mo profits anew

Profits soar 17% to record high of P13.7-B as rental, hotel businesses register unprecedented growth

MEGAWORLD, the country's largest developer of integrated urban townships and the biggest landlord of office spaces, registered a net income of P13.7-billion during the first nine months of the year, up 17% compared to P11.7-billion during the same period last year. Excluding non-recurring gain of P189-million, net income grew by 16% to a new record high of P13.5-billion. Net income attributable to parent company stood at P12.8-billion over the same period, growing 14% from P11.3-billion the year before.

Consolidated revenues during the nine-month period of 2019 rose at a robust pace of 17% to P48.1-billion from P41.3-billion, at-

tributed to the strong performance of its core businesses.

The company's real estate sales grew 11% for the period this year, ending at P30.7-billion from P27.6 billion during the same period last year.

As of end-September, Megaworld launched a total of P58.7-billion in new residential inventory while reservation sales reached P114-billion.

"Megaworld's consistent growth across all business segments is a clear indicator of where the company is going, and we are very optimistic to finish the year strong. We have already introduced quite a number of real estate projects this year, which reflects the kind of demand that we have been

seeing since last year. Megaworld will always be market driven, and as long as we see this type of demand on the ground, then we will continue to launch projects aggressively," says Kevin L. Tan, chief strategy officer, Megaworld.

The company's robust rental income greatly helped sustain earnings growth on the back of strong leasing from Megaworld Premier Offices and Megaworld Lifestyle Malls.

The first three quarters saw its rental income surging to P12.4-billion from P10.5-billion during the same period last year, exhibiting a 19% growth year-on-year.

Megaworld is set to further solidify its position as the leader in office developments in terms

of total office space inventory by completing another 192,000 square meters of office spaces this year.

By the end of 2020, the company will breach the two-million square meter mark in its office space portfolio with the completion of new state-of-the-art office towers in Uptown Bonifacio, McKinley West, Iloilo Business Park, and ArcoVia City, cementing its position as the country's largest office developer and landlord.

The company is also set to build four new full-scale malls: The Capital Mall in Capital Town, Pampanga; Mactan Newtown Beach Walk in The Mactan Newtown, Cebu; Upper East Mall in The Upper East in Bacolod City; and Highland

Mall in Highland City in Cainta, Rizal.

All these new commercial properties are expected to be completed within the next three years.

"Our rental business remains to be a key driver to our consistent growth, and we see this to become stronger in the coming years as we roll out more office and retail spaces in our townships across the country," explains Tan.

Meanwhile, the company's hotel business became the fastest-growing segment during the first nine months of 2019 as hotel revenues

soared 82% to P1.9-billion compared to last year's P1.0-billion due to the increase in its hotel room capacity through the homegrown brands of Megaworld Hotels.

"In the long term, we see our hotel operations to be a major contributor to our growth as we continue to accelerate our hotel developments. With over 3,500 hotel room keys, Megaworld is not just making its presence felt, but more notably, complementing the government's thrust to attract 12 million international tourists by 2022," adds Tan.

—Press release

Ani ng magsasaka gumanda sa final cropping season

NI ROMMEL RAMOS

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS --- Naging maganda ang ani na palay ng mga magsasaka sa Barangay Santor ngayong huling anihan para sa taong 2019 dahil hindi ito nasalanta ng malalaking sakuna.

Ito ang masayang reaksyon ng mga magsasaka dito habang ginagapas na ang kanilang ekta-ektaryang palayan para anihin at ibenta.

Sa mga nagdaang taon kasi ay karaniwang nasira ang kanilang mga pananim dahil sa malalakas na hangin dulot ng bagyo, pagbaha o di kaya naman ay kakulangan ng irigasyon dahil sa tag-tuyot.

Ayon kay Melencio Domingo, pangulo ng mga magsasaka sa Barangay Santor, inaasahan nila na makababawi sila sa pagkakataong ito mula sa pagkalugi ng nakaraang anihan dahil sa bagsak na presyo din ang palay nitong nakaraang Mayo.

Plano nila ngayon na sa National Food Authority (NFA) ibenta ang kanilang mga palay dahil mas mataas ang bili ng ahensya ngayon kumpara sa mga commercial millers.

May hakbang din na ginawa ang mga magsasaka dito na makapagbenta ng palay sa lokal na pamahalaan para marami silang opsyon ng bentahan ng palay dahil sa kumpetisyon ng bilihan nito laban sa mga imported na bigas.

Panawagan nila sa administrasyong Duterte na bigyan ng dagdag ayuda ang mga magsasaka na nahirapan sa kanilang hanapbuhay magmula nang ipinatupad ang Rice Tariffication Law.

Hiling din ni Domingo na ang panukalang bigas na ipamigay sa ilalim ng 4P's ay mula sa mga aning palay ng mga magsasaka.

Sa ganitong paraan anila ay matutulungan ng gobyerno hindi lamang ang mga miyembro ng 4P's bagkus ay matutulungan din silang mga magsasaka dahil mabibili ng gobyerno ang kanilang mga palay.



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