

Middlemen blamed for galunggong cost

Farmgate price only P100-P120 per kilo

BY DING CERVANTES

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- A fishers' group blamed yesterday middlemen for the exorbitant cost of galunggong or round scad fish, as it noted that the farm gate of the fish ranges at only P100 to P120 per kilo.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said that the government has therefore no basis to import 45,000 metric tons of galunggong.

"There are plenty of fish in our seas. Why would the government feed its people with imported fish which are inferior in quality and pose health risks, when we can have different varieties of fresh, locally-produced marine products?" the group said in a statement.

Pamalakaya urged Agriculture Sec. William Dar "to cancel his order (to import) in the name of the fishers' and consumers' welfare."

"Importation would not stabilize the inflation because

the so-called middlemen system is highly prevalent in our fish ports and markets. The middlemen are the ones who control and dictate the market price, which is way higher than the farm gate value," the group said.

Pamalakaya leader Fernando Hicap slammed the Department of Agriculture "for failing to learn from the lesson of the last year's importation order of 17,000 metric tons of galunggong."

"It pulled down farm gate prices as low as P60 per kilo,

while retail prices remained at P150 to P170 per kilo," he recalled.

Hicap also noted that "the present's retail prices at P300 to P350 per kilo reek of profiteering as farm gate prices are at P100 to P120 per kilo."

"The agriculture department must focus on strengthening the livelihood capacity of municipal fisherfolk across the country to boost fisheries production," Hicap said.

The group expressed fears that the planned fish importation could pull down farm gate prices lower than P100 per kilo.

"Importation failed to pull down retail prices last year, obviously because the market is controlled and dictated by monopoly traders. Lalong mawawalan ng halaga ang huli ng mga mangingisda sa pagpasok ng panibagong mga imported," Hicap lamented, as he warned the imported fish could be laden with formalin.

"We call on the Filipino consumers to reject and denounce this importation move by the Duterte administration, and support our small fishers by buying local marine and aquatic products," Hicap also said.

Nueva Ecija shines bright for Christmas

BY ARMAND M. GALANG

CABANATUAN CITY - From the southernmost city of Gapan to the northern San Jose, local government units have set up joyous and thematic displays to make Christmas a merrier season among town-folk and tourists.

In the middle, the city government of Cabanatuan has decorated historic Plaza Lucero with inviting floral lights as the provincial government dressed the Old Capitol up with Christmas display.

Gapan City Mayor Emerson Pascual said kilometer-long tunnel lights, made of at least 27,500 bulbs and 2,000 lanterns was designed to bring delight to his constituents and local tourists.

Dubbed as "Masigla ang Pasko sa Gapan," the display also features a 115-foot Christmas tree of 120,000 bulbs and 34,000 decorative materials.

It stands side by side with the holiday-lit giant Ferris wheel that also serves as a giant lantern, overseeing the entire city and nearby towns.

To complete the essence of Christmas, Pascual said, a

huge nativity scene or Belen was placed beside the plaza's stage.

"Ang gusto ko lang ay mag-ing masaya ang mga taga-Gapan," said Pascual.

In San Jose City, palay-designed lights spread throughout the national highway as the city hall compound turns into a virtual ricefield during nighttime.

Thirteen high schools and colleges have created huge lanterns out of recyclable materials.

"Ang San Jose ay ay isa sa mgapinakamalaking rice producer ng Nueva Ecija," said Mayor Mario Salvador, adding his constituents have their own share of problems due to very low price of palay.

Science City of Muñoz, meanwhile, boasts of lights at city hall and primary streets featuring products of scientific institutions such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute, Philippine Carabao Center, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, among others.

The Central Luzon State University and PhilRice also have their own bright stars on display.



Gng. Buntis 2019 and runners-up with Mayor Aida Macalinao. PHOTO BY ERNIE ESCONDE

Buntis pageant held

BY ERNIE B. ESCONDE

SAMAL, Bataan -- Thursday night was a night to remember in this farming and fishing town when 11 pregnant women like professional fashion models hit the improvised ramp adorned with flowers at the covered court here.

The young women represented their respective villages to vie for the title "Gng. Buntis 2019" as highlight for the celebration of Buntis Congress on its fifth year here to raise awareness on proper care of both the mother and the baby.

Loud cheers from the big crowd welcomed the candidates in their production number as they danced while once-in-a-while touching their belly showing signs

of pregnancy. Organizers said the women were from five to nine months pregnant.

The pageant lasted from 7 p.m. to almost midnight but there was no sign of fatigue from both the candidates and their supporters.

The supporters wildly cheered as their candidate walked the ramp in casual wear and long gown and showed their talent.

Some sang and danced in fast tempo as if they were not pregnant. A Q&A portion followed where candidates were asked on what they learned from the lectures of rural health physicians, on the benefits of new born screening and even on what to do during a misunderstanding between family members.

During the pageant, two

rural health doctors lectured on family planning and proper health care of mother and baby during pregnancy and after the mother gives birth.

A select panel of judges selected 20-year-old Rhy-cell Dario of Barangay East Calaguiman as Gng. Buntis 2019. She is five months pregnant on her first child.

Genalyn Dadural of Barangay San Juan was adjudged first runner-up while Jonalyn Oconer of Barangay Sta. Lucia got the second runner-up title.

Samal Mayor Aida Macalinao led in the crowning of the winners. The Buntis Congress is a yearly project of the municipal government in coordination with the Samal Rural Health Center under Dr. Cristina Espino.

Scout jamboree naidaos

NI JOHNNY REBLANDO

BOTOLAN, Zambales - Nag-ing matagumpay ang pagdiriwang ng 17th National Scout Jamboree na ginanap sa Camp Kainomayan, Barangay San Juan sa bayang ito.

Ang jamboree na may temang "Commitment to Excellence" ay nagsimula noong Dec. 1 at nagtapos ng Dec. 7. Ito ay dinaluhan ng may 25,000 delegadong nagmula sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa.

Isang grand bonfire ang isinagawa sa closing ceremo-

ny na dinaluhan nina Zambales PPO provincial director Col. Ponce Rogelio Penones Jr., deputy provincial director for operation Col. Oriano Mina, Boy Scouts of the Philippines national president Roberto S Pagdanganan, BSP national commissioner Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Cedrick Train, Botolan Mayor Doris "Bing" Maniquiz, DepEd regional director Dr. Nicolas T Capulong, Engr. Rogelio S Villa Jr, chairman Ramon G Lacbain II ng Ramon Magsaysay Council at iba pang BSP national officers.

Bagamat nagkaroon ng

pre-emptive evacuation sa mga delegado sa ibat-ibang paaralan sa Botolan sanhi ng pananalasa ng bagyong Tisoy, naisagawa pa rin ng maayos ang jamboree sa tulong na rin ng PNP at mga lokal na opisyal ng Botolan at lalawigan sa pangunguna ni Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr.

Samantala, pinaghahandaan na ng pamahalaan lalawigan ng Zambales sakaling matuloy ang planong sa Zambales gaganapin ang international jamboree dahil subok na anila ito matapos ganapin ang national jamboree.

Frustrated kidnaper nabbed for drugs

OLONGAPO CITY - A man was arrested by operatives of Police Station 1 of the Olongapo City Police Office (OCPO) and CIDG in an entrapment operation at Anonas Street, Barangay West Bajac-Bajac here.

Report reaching the office of OCPO director Police Col. Benjamin Sembrano identified the suspect as Xevier Maria Antonio Cortez y Aenile, 28, resident of No. 19 Maharlika Hills, Taytay Rizal.

Report said one Christine Abbey San Luis y Cajano, 19, resident of No. 2525 Manggahan Extention, Barangay Sta. Rita sought police assistance regarding her former live-in partner threatening to abduct her and kill her guardian.

Acting on the report, police saw suspect on board a white Nissan Navara pick-up with conduction No. OW 2912 parked in front of AMA College.

Police led by Lt. Allan delos Reyes, Lt. Ronnie Luna of City Police DEU and CIDG operatives caught in the suspect in the act of dragging and forcibly taking victim inside his vehicle.

During the arrest, the suspect was frisked and yielded one 7-inch folding knife, two zip lock plastic bags containing dried marijuana leaves weighing 100 grams, one zip lock bag containing Kush weighing nine grams, eight zip lock small bags containing marijuana pollen weighing 73 grams, two small bottles containing marijuana oil; five Ecstasy tablets, five boxes rolling paper, one 18-inch bolo, and assorted drug paraphernalia.

The suspect now faces frustrated serious illegal detention (Frustrated Kidnapping) charges in violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 6 and violation of Section 11 and 12, Article II of RA 9165.

- Johnny Reblando



City of San Fernando,
Pampanga, Philippines

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Giant Lantern Festival 2019

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

<p>Nov 25 • 8 am Infront of City Hall</p> <p>Unveiling of Calendar of Events & Press Conference</p>	<p>Nov 25 • 4 pm Diosdado Macapagal Government Center, Maimpis</p> <p>Inter-Government Agency Lantern & Parade Competition</p>
<p>Nov 26 • 2:30 pm Infront of City Hall, Poblacion</p> <p>Inter-School Lantern Parade</p>	<p>Nov 27 - 29 • 6 pm City Wide</p> <p>Inter-Commercial Establishment Competition</p>
<p>Nov 27 - 30 • 6 pm Around CSFP</p> <p>Inter-Village Christmas Decor Competition</p>	<p>Dec 10 • 5 pm University of the Assumption</p> <p>KapaskUA n king UA</p>
<p>Dec 14 • 6:30 pm Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Giant Lantern Festival Competition</p>	<p>Dec 15 - 21 • 7 pm Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Giant Lantern Exhibition</p>
<p>Dec 22 • 7 pm Essel Park, Telabastagan Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Giant Lantern Exhibition</p>	<p>Dec 23 • 7 pm Greenfields Square, Sindalan Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Giant Lantern Exhibition</p>
<p>Dec 24 • 11 pm Infront of City Hall, Poblacion</p> <p>Giant Lantern Exhibition</p>	<p>Dec 25 - 27 • 7 pm Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Giant Lantern Exhibition</p>
<p>Dec 28 - 29 • 7 pm Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Giant Lantern Exhibition</p>	<p>Jan 1, 2020 • 7 pm Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Giant Lantern Exhibition</p>
<p>Dec 2 - Jan 2, 2020 Robinsons Starmills</p> <p>Gawang Fermandino, Gawang Kapampangan Fair (Giant Lantern Festival Trade Fair)</p>	



SSS eases guidelines on receipt, processing of maternity benefit claims

THE STATE-RUN Social Security System (SSS) had set additional guidelines on the receipt and processing of maternity benefit claims following the ease of doing business and to effectively implement

Republic Act No. 11210 or the 105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law (EMLL).

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Aurora C. Ignacio said the guidelines will be used for maternity benefit

claims of every delivery, miscarriage or emergency termination of pregnancy (ETP) that occurred on or after March 11, 2019.

"These new service procedures and standards, fitted to

the provisions of the EMLL, are designed to expedite maternity benefit processing while still ensuring that there will be no fraudulent claims," Ignacio said.

Among the amendments is the simplification of documentary requirements for the benefit program.

For cesarean deliveries, additional documents indicating the type of delivery will no longer be required.

Also, instead of returning Maternity Claim Applications and supporting documents with minor discrepancies or inconsistencies, the SSS will now receive and process them if the member's identity can be established in them.

Female members applying for their maternity benefit claims are given the option to either update or retain their maiden names.

Further, Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) members in apostille countries now have the efficient and less costly option of submitting supporting documents issued with an apostille by the Foreign Ministry, Embassy or Consulate General, in substitute of authentication from the Philippine Embassy/Consulate General.

Meanwhile, SSS eases maternity reimbursement claim process for employers whose employees did not return back to work and was not able to submit the documentary requirements as employed members are now required to accompany its notification forms with proof of pregnancy such as pregnancy tests duly signed by a physician/municipal health officer, or diagnostic test results such as ultrasound or blood pregnancy tests.

—Press release



TICP ANNIVERSARY. Officers and members of Toyota Innova Club of the Philippines (TICP) celebrate their 7th Anniversary recently led by Jefferson A. Chua, TICP president (4th left), Daisy V. Villar, TICP secretary and Bataan chapter leader (center) and Archie F. Pacson, vice president of Weststar Auto Sales & Service Centre, which is a major sponsor. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

LA JOLLA

Luxury hotel-resort now ready for visitors

By ERNIE B. ESCONDE

BALANGA CITY -- A luxury hotel and resort in Bagac, Bataan is ready to accept visitors with the first phase costing P1 billion already more than 90 percent complete, its owner announced Friday.

Ronnie del Rosario said 36 rooms at the La Jolla Hotel and Resort in Barangay Banawang are ready for occupancy that will be increased to 60 early next year. There are also available housing units.

"We are open to offer various services to visitors of Bataan unlike some resorts that are exclusively for members only," the businessman

said.

The resort that rests between the sea, hills, and mountain was scheduled for blessing on December 23.

Del Rosario said visitors will enjoy the place that, compared to others, has the most number of trees.

He said they have jet ski and other water sports.

"Our main attraction is the beach which is flat, walang under toe kaya walang biglang bagsak na malalim. Our beach is the safest being a cove with natural breakwater sa harap ng bundok na kahit bata safe na lumangoy. Ang beach pang swimming pool," he said.

The 60-hectare area of La

Jolla, more known as La Joya, was divided into six phases with the second phase budgeted for another P1 billion to begin with the near completion of the first phase.

"We are inviting investors kaya several billion pesos pa ang kailangan depende sa itatayo ng investors," del Rosario said.

He said their accreditation with the Tourism Infrastructure & Enterprise Zone Authority was already under process.

"Ang passion natin ay ang gumanda ang Bagac na maipagmamalaki kahit saan kaya importante na maayos ang produkto. Secondary na lang ang kita," Del Rosario said.

TMC Clark conducts 3-day neuro advancement course

By JOANN M. VALENCIANO

ANGELES CITY — The Medical City (TMC) - Clark conducted a three-day course on neurological advancements and technology specifically on management of the first few hours of a neurological emergency such as stroke and aneurysm.

The course was offered to doctors, internal medicine consultants, neurologists, neurosurgeons, nurses involved in critical care, medical interns and other paramedic personnel. It was held on December 5-7 at the Holy Angel University here.

According to Dr. Gerard Erickson Gonzales, adult neurologist and head of brain attack team and section of neurology at TMC, the brain responders and educators aim to strengthen care for neurologic emergency and the critically ill (Rescue), presented the symposium.

The symposium is the first Brain Rescue annual meeting conducted by the TMC - Clark and its third emergency neurological life support (ENLS) certification. Previous ENLS symposiums were held in Ortigas and Iloilo.

"This is about emergency neurological life support. It is like a training certification, just like ACLS (advanced cardiac life support), basic life support, which is being conducted every two years, but this time around, for treatment of brain problems," Gonzales said.

The three-day course focused on pre-conference ENLS certification course, targeted temperature management (TTM) lecture sessions on basic science and physiology with clinical trials and implementation of TTM, as well as a five-station hands-on workshop on neurocritical care.

"The objective of the course is to teach all doctors, paramedical personnel and nurses to learn how to manage neurocritical care such as stroke, epilepsy, brain infection and traumatic brain injury from vehicular accidents," said Gonzales.

"So that when we have a



Gonzales

patient presenting to the emergency department, they will be managed appropriately," he added.

Former president of neurocritical care society Dr. J. Claude Hemphill III, professor of neurology and neurological surgery at the University of California USA, and Gretchen M. Brophy, PharmD, were the keynote speakers of the course.

Among other international doctors and delegates who conducted the course were Jeong Ho Hung MD, immediate former president of neurocritical care society; Satoshi Egawa MD, neuro ICU; Akihiro Inoue MD, department of emergency and critical care medicine at Hyogo Emergency Medical Center; Yoshihisa Fujimoto MD; and Yasuhiro Norisue MD, department of emergency and critical care medicine, Tokyo Bay Uraysu Ichikawa Medical Center; Yasuhiro Kuroda MD department of emergency disaster and critical care medicine and faculty of medicine at Kagawa University; Yuko Egawa MD, emergency and critical care Saitama Red Cross Hospital; and Yong Shanyu Samantha, critical care nurse in Singapore SouthEast Asia clinical specialist for TTM.

The Brain Rescue is a group of neurocritical care doctors and medical professionals at TMC.



DISASTER-RESILIENT CITY. Angeles City Mayor Carmelo 'Pogi' Lazatin Jr. and Vice Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting commend the Angeles City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office for being a finalist in the 21st Gawad KALASAG - Best Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (Highly Urbanized City).

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOMES SUGUI

448th Aids Ming Kapampangan Capital Employees Day



Fun run



Zumba



Cheering



Obstacle race



Zumba



Fish catching



Tug of War



Tug of War

To the Point

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Stand up for human rights

RAISING OUR voices is essential to the creation of a future of peace, justice and sustainable development. And this has been a year of tremendous activism – notably by young people.

In every region, people are working for hope.

From the accelerating climate crisis to the fight against inequality and repressive institutions.

From the right to make informed decisions about our own bodies to the right to participate in defining policies for our countries.

I am inspired by the courage, clarity and principle of the women, men and young people who are rising up peacefully, to create greater freedom and justice.

Their voices are the living expression of human rights – a movement that is fundamentally about building dignity and equality for everyone.

Policy-makers everywhere need to listen to these calls. And in response, they need to shape more effective, more principled policies.

We have a right to live free from discrimination on any grounds. We have a right to access education, health-care, economic opportunities and a decent standard of living.

This is about our future, our livelihoods, our freedoms, our security and our environment.

We need to mobilise across the world—peacefully and powerfully—to advance a world of rights, dignity and choice for everyone.

With renewed determination, we all need to stand up for human rights.

(Message of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, 2019)

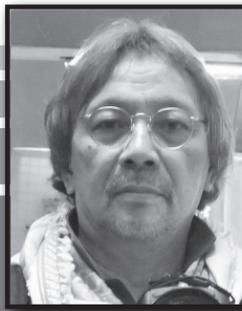


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Opinion



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Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

The Capampangan

(First published in The Voice, December 6-12, 1998 issue, in observance of Pampanga Day, wonder if this piece still rings true 21 years after.)

THERE IS much ado about the Capampangan.

More than a tribe, the old Capampangan prides himself as a separate race, distinct from the Filipino. Perhaps in bitter rebellion against the diminution of his once vast kingdom that was said to have stretched from the mouth of the Pasig in Tondo to the upper reaches of the Chico River in Cagayan Valley.

Mayhaps, in a vicious reaction to the consequent waning of the primacy of his *amanung sisuwan* which is now limited to just the province and the southern half of Tarlac, plus a single town in each of Pampanga's contiguous provinces of Bataan, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

He may not be the distinct species that he likes to make of himself, but the Capampangan unarguably stands out when ranged against his Filipino fellows. The Capampangan is easily, if readily distinguished.

Food is his passion. A gourmet and a gourmand is the Capampangan as he turns snails and frogs, dogs and field mice, pythons and cobras, locusts and mole crickets into exotic dishes rivaling ambrosia itself. And no meal for him without the attendant condiments of *patis*, *toyo*, and *aslam*.

And who could ever love the pungent *burol* or *balo-balo* other than the Capampangan?

How the Capampangan loves to party! Just about every occasion is a cause for celebration. A Capampangan fiesta is unrivalled in the excesses of bacchanalia. The fattened calf or pig, the chicken, the duck, the goat, even good old *Bantay*, get served on the Capampangan table as *asado*, *estofado*, and *menudo*, *galantina* and *caldereta*, *morcon*, not to forget *lechon*. Beer goes by the barrel, *ginebra* by the bucket.

For dessert, *leche flan* won't suffice. There has to be *bibingqui*, *capit*, *tibuc-tibuc*, *pepalto*, *bagcat saguin*, *macapunu*, and all sorts of fruits.

No money is no excuse to feast. *E ca macapagtawó? Ala kang marine tawu. Nananu ya itang mag-five-six qng cantu?* Feast for the day, all the year to the usurer.

Fashion is an everyday statement. In colleges and universities, the ubiquitous Capampangan student is the one dressed to the nines but with barely a dime. Just about everywhere he is toggled as though ever-ready to a party.

Dance is a religion. Even before the fad of disco and ballroom dancing, the Capampangan has had – dating to the turn of the century, the 19th to the 20th pa – *Circulo Fernandino* in the capital town, *Bachelor's Club*, later *Thomasian* in Sto. Tomas, *Old Legs* in Bacolor, *Batubalani* in Guagua, *Maharajah* in Macabebe, *Now and Then* in Minalin, and a host of other annual formal dances where the local *crème de la crème* shine in their best fineries.

Porma is his way of life. When a Capampangan earns – even barely enough – the first thing he buys is a car, never a house. Why? *Ninanu ca, malyari meng apidala-dalang pamorma ing bale?*

Now you know the reason behind the labeling of the Capampangan as *paratut*, as *mayabang*. Part of this also is his "sugar mentality" raised, no doubt, in the province's once fertile sugarlands. More than a sweet tooth and a diabetic constitution, the Capampangan possesses a saccharine tongue.

Just you listen when he woos the object of his affection. Or eavesdrop to his whispers to the subject of his seduction. And wonder

no more why the Capampangan is a *la(h)ing sibuburian*, if not a *la(h)ing pipicutan*.

The Capampangan's mastery with words is manifested too in the number of cabalens in literature and in the media. Just about every newspaper in Manila has had a Capampangan for an editor, columnist, deskman or reporter.

Of course, there are the laughables about the Capampangan.

When the deadly H-fever epidemic was wreaking havoc in Metro Manila and elsewhere, it was joked about that Pampanga would be spared. Why? The Capampangan has no H in his language, silly.

Which brings to mind that tongue-twister that landed me a grade of 70 in high-school Pilipino after I read it thus: *Hako hay naiipan ng anging hamian hat hako'y napa-alak-ak, a-a-a-a-a.*

Having not the letter H in the language is nothing to be ashamed of though. This is part of the Capampangan's Spanish heritage. Remember in *lengua Español*, the letter H is silent. *O, nanu pang asabi mu?*

Positivizing the negative is a Kapampangan attribute. Finding opportunity in adversity is imbedded in the Kapampangan character.

Yes, there was more than sloganeering or rhetorics in the late Governor Bren Z. Guiao's *E co magmalun, mibangun ya ing Pampanga* or in then Acting Mayor Ed Pamintuan's *Agyu tamu!* immediately after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. These were calls to the resiliency innate in the Capampangan.

Proven in time by the leaps and bounds the province has taken rising, then soaring from the Pinatubo's ashes of devastation and despair.

There too was Governor Lito Lapid's novel and noble meaning to the derogatory *dugong* aso long impacted in the Capampangan psyche.

This, when the uncolleged Lapid extolled it as the virtue of *catapatan*, of canine loyalty to an elder, to a superior, to a friend – before then President Fidel V. Ramos, credited for much of the salvation of Pampanga from obliteration and its subsequent rehabilitation and renewal.

Of course, there will be some debate on loyalty here, given the historical aberration of the Macabebes "betraying" Emilio Aguinaldo to the Americans in the second phase of the War of Philippine Independence. That, though, is another story.

For now, let us just be. Celebrate Capampangan pride. And passion too. *Luid ya ing Capampangan.*

ALAS, fixed on the social value, skin deep at that, I totally missed the spiritual – religious, if you may – side of the Capampangan. That the first Filipino priest, the first Filipino nun, the first Filipino Jesuit, the first Filipino Cardinal were all Capampangans bespeak of the breadth and depth of the Catholic faith in the Capampangan race.

Why, even the self-proclaimed "anointed son of god" Apollo Quiboloy – whatever god conceived him, or he conceived of – is, for better or for worse, a Capampangan. But his is another story. So, lest I be ordered to stop, I shall stop.

Worry a little bit every day and in a lifetime you will lose a couple of years. If something is wrong, fix it if you can. But train yourself not to worry. Worry never fixes anything. –Mary Hemingway



Halo-halo
Ding Cervantes

Opinion

Again, on the nearing Warning

THIS SPACE has focused many times on the prophesied the Warning, the Miracle, and the Chastisement, mainly citing the Marian apparitions in Garabandal, Spain (1960s) as source.

Since the Warning would be the first to happen, as happen it will, I have dwelt on it many times. Fact is, Pope Pius IX (1792-1878) and Pope Paul VI (1897-1978), both now saints, have already warned about the Warning.

Referring to the Warning, Pope Pius IX had said: "Since the whole world is against God and His Church, it is evident that He has reserved the victory over His enemies to Himself. . . all will be forced to look to the supernatural. . . There will come a great wonder, which will fill the world with astonishment."

About a century later, Pope Paul VI said: "The maturity of conscience, most difficult to evaluate today, is the discernment between evil and good. Humanity has performed so many evil deeds that its conscience is now darkened by sin. We will need a terrible warning, and many will refuse to listen—a terrible warning. Most people will not heed it, but it will be essential to replace the moral order. Many have lived using their freedom for every kind of pleasure, and they are under the gaze of our God; but this judgment will be direct—at the same time, with His tenderness—and they will be forced to recognize their sin and to separate their sin from their goodness. This time, the sins of the world will be revealed."

And there have been many others, all credible, who have given information about the Warning, their sourced being supernatural.

On August 15, 1980, the Lord said to Elizabeth Kindelmann, "The Church and the whole world are in danger. You cannot change this situation. Only the Holy Trinity, through the unified intercession of the Blessed Virgin, the angels, the saints, and the souls in purgatory, can help you."

To Luz de Maria de Bonilla, Jesus said; "The Mini-Judgment is a reality. People no longer realize that they offend Me" (God the Father to Matthew Kelly). [23] "Man does not look with mistrust upon the devil, instead he gladly follows and obeys him, acting contrary to the will of God."

To Luz de Maria, Jesus said: "The very fact that such judgments will come is because people refuse to convert and continue to live in darkness."

And to Janie Garza: "The Warning is not a fantasy. Humanity must be purified so that it does not fall into the flames of hell."

From the Blessed Mother to Fr. Estafano Gobbi: "Tongues of fire will come down upon you all, my poor children, so ensnared and seduced by Satan and by all the evil spirits who, during these years, have attained their greatest triumph. And thus, you will be illuminated by this divine light . . . which will open the door of your heart to receive the great gift of divine mercy."

Even God the Father is said to have revealed as much to mystic Matthew Kelly, the well-known Catholic speaker and author born in Australia, now living in Ohio. Through him, God the Father said, "It will be painful, very

painful, but short. You will see your sins; you will see how much you offend Me, every day. . . Judgment is the best word you humans have to describe it, but it will be more like this: you will see your own personal darkness contrasted against the pure light of My love."

The mystic and stigmatist, Janie Garza, who has the full approval of her bishop to share her messages, asked Jesus on September 9, 1995, "Beloved Savior, will the Illumination scare people?"

Jesus answered, "The fear that will inflame their hearts is the holy fear of the immense power of My Father, especially for those many souls that have continued to deny the existence of My Father. These will be the souls that will experience tremendous fear."

Even St. Joseph has stepped in to tell Janie in 1994, "For those who believe that they live in the light but continue to break every Commandment given by God, to these souls, I, St. Joseph, say that these souls will not be able to see the state of their souls and live."

To this, Janie responded, "This is hard for me to know. Are you saying that people who do not live God's Commandments will die when they see their souls?" And St. Joseph answered, "Yes, my little one, that's how it will be for many unless they repent and decide for conversion. There is still time for repentance, but time is growing shorter with each day that goes by."

Last Aug. 12, mystic and stigmatist, Luz de Maria de Bonilla quoted Jesus to have said: □Those who behave and act in My likeness toward their neighbor, and repent with all their strength, force, and feelings, and confess their sins with a firm purpose of amendment, those children of Mine will experience the Warning like every human being will, but not with the intensity of those who stoop in the ire of sin through disobedience, ignoring My calls, those of My Mother, and My faithful Saint Michael the Archangel."

In Garabandal, Spain on July 27, 1975, seer Mari Loli was asked when the Warning would happen and she replied: "All I can say is that it is very near, and that it is very important that we get ready for it . . ."

On September 9, 1995, Janie Garza asked Our Lord directly, "Oh, Jesus, will this happen very soon?" And Jesus answered: "Our humble servant, this will happen within a short period. Do not be distracted with dates, but prepare every day with strong prayer. Many who worry about these times will not live to see these things take place. This is why Holy Scripture warns everybody not to be concerned about tomorrow, for tomorrow is promised to no one. The present day has enough trials and crosses. Know that when we speak about such things to come; this is for the people to convert and abandon their evil ways. Every day is an opportunity for souls to convert. People should not wait for such things to come to convert, but they should convert now, before it's too late!"



Napag-uusapan Lang
Felix M. Garcia

Masayang 448th nang Aldo Kebaitan ning Pampangang!

LUAL ya'nyi, adwa nang aldo ing panayan Pihu ta'ne namang miuman pagmasusian Ing masayang aldo't petsang panga-pundar Ning pakamalan ta'ng Indung Lalawigan.

Menasa, Oktubre pamu plantsadu na Ing sablang bage a kailangan isadya; Muna, nung ring manibala kwenta King peka-maselan nang dake ning MOKA.

Ating komiti keng nung ninu ring sanak Karing nominadu a karapat-dapat Mirinan galal at nanung meging ambag Deti king Pampangang ban mirinan 'Awards'.

Ating miayaliwang klasing presentasyon A kaugne niting mesabing okasyon; Mupin, ing pintas ken ding aliwang mirun Baket y Uncle Sam yang parating Timun?

Masasabi kasing Aldo neng Beitan Ning probinsya iting dapat pagmasusian, Pero nung insanu ing Amanung Sisuan Ya ing lalto salimpusa mu nung misan

Umpisa, angga na king lubus mayari Ing mesabing aldo a pamagmasusi, Pasalamat ka nung ating magkamali, A ing Sabing Menan tagkilan de bili.

E tamu lalako maniabi lang Inglis Nung iti yang dapat salitang magamit; Pero, keng aldo na niting panga-bait, lti, e ta'ne man sana ipamalit.

King aldo mesabi nanu ing criteria A sukat pagbasian ban mipabilang ya 'As Most Outstanding Kapampangan, ngara Ing nung misan e man bait ken tagana?

E wari ing paksa ning pamagmasusi Inggil king Balen at karing keyang Dai? Nung nu' ing kultura't tradisyun ning lipi Yang nanan ta'na mu e sa' malumpawi?

Inya anti na ning ing paksang diwa na Ning pamagmasusi tamu banwa-banwa Makaparikil king Aldo ning Pampangang, Ing Salita na ing dapat maging 'Bida'.

At e ing Salita nang Balagtas at Sam Ing keng dila na tala-ugit bilang King programa, at ding mamananggap galal Ing dapat dang igkas arapan ding dakal?

Nune ing Amanung Sisuan ya ing dapat Karing dila reti ing kailangan igkas Antimong bait king kekatomung labwad A sale ning lugud, ning legwan at tindag.

At nung ing parasan ta' king Aldo iti, Inggil keka Balen at king manang Sabi; Misanmetung tamung manyese kaniti Ban e matda angga na king bandang tawli!

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Donggwang, KDF partner to help Korean war vets, kin

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CLARK FREEPORT – The Donggwang Clark Corp. (DCC) has partnered with the Kapampangan Development Foundation, Inc. (KDFI) for its corporate social responsibility (CSR) by helping Filipino veterans of the Korean war and their descendants.

DCC chairman Lee Shin Kun and KDFI president Benny Ricafort signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) at D' Heights Resort and Casino here on Monday for their partnership and to seal their commitment.

Lending his bright presence in the brief ceremony was Major Maximo Young, a 97-year old Filipino veteran of three wars – World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Historical records showed that when the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950, Young volunteered to join the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok) to fight Chi-

nese and North Korean communist forces who invaded South Korea.

As a tank commander of the 10th Battalion Combat Team (BCT) of Peftok Young and his troops fought 4,000 Chinese and North Korean troops in a two-day close-quarter fighting in what is now known as the Great Battle at Yultong, stopping the enemy from entering South Korea.

It was at Yultong that Young and his troops showed the Filipino gallantry in combat against all odds.

For his heroic action, Young was awarded the "Taegeuk Medal," the highest military award of South Korea given to a soldier for bravery in combat.

A South Korean national at the ceremony thanked Young saying: "If it weren't for you, we would probably be under North Korea today."

Also present to witness the brief ceremony were DCC president Lee Seong Gi, Gen. Restituto Aguilar, chief of the Vet-

erans Memorial and Historical Division of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office; descendants of Captain Conrado Yap – Philippine Veterans Affairs, Inc., Isabelita Yap Aganon; and 43rd Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Jessie Dellosa.

DCC executive Ernesto Gorospe said the MOA is an initiative of chairman Lee "to express the everlasting gratitude of the Korean people for the heroism and bravery of Filipino soldiers in the Korean War."

An initial funding of P1 million was provided for the medical and educational assistance of the veterans and their descendants.

Gorospe said KDFI has been selected as a partner because the foundation has already existing programs on cataract operations, prosthetic equipment, harelip medical procedures and training programs on livelihood.

He added that DCC will provide funding assistance to these programs over a 12-month period.



Lee Shin Kun and Benny Ricafort show their MOA after signing it on Monday at D' Heights Resort and Casino. PHOTO BY ASHLEY MANABAT

Scrap Rice Liberalization Law as Christmas gift for farmers

FROM PAGE 1

Laban sa RA 11203 Rice Liberalization Law" with the signatures of some 50,000 supporters, mostly farmers.

The petition cited particularly Senate President Vicente Sotto III and opposition Sen. Francis Pangilinan whom it asked "to act on the collective sentiment of more than 50,000 signatories."

"Our wish is for the senators to be moved and heed the demand of Filipino peasants and poor consumers to repeal the Rice Liberalization Law pushed by Senator Cynthia Villar," Bantay Bigas spokesperson and Amihan secretary-general Cathy Estavillo.

The groups initiated the signing of the petition less than a month ago.

"The senators should contemplate that many signed the petition in less than a month, indicating a broad opposition of the people to RA 11203. If they want to earn the approval of farmers and poor consumers across the country, they should repeal the law or also bear the mounting people's dissent," she said.

Estavillo said that while the signed peti-

tion was already submitted to Congress, more signatures are still being gathered, as she expressed confidence that hundreds of thousands could be gathered by February next year to coincide with the first anniversary of the controversial law of Villar.

"It is public knowledge that RA 11203 is economic sabotage of the rice sector, primari-

ly triggering depressed farm gate prices as low as P7 per kilo this year, although the retail prices never dropped accordingly. The winners from this law are the private traders and importers, and the big losers are the farmers and consumers," she lamented.

Estavillo warned that "farm gate prices for the harvest period for the dry season next year would be the end-gamer for the law."

"A repeat of the low farm gate prices during the dry season will be fatal to farmers. No band-aid solution can salvage them from the deepening state of bankruptcy unless the law is repealed soon," she also said.

Bantay Bigas and Amihan also urged the senators to author their version of the House Bill 477 Rice Industry Development Act (RIDA)

which was authored at the House by Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Arlene Brosas and other lawmakers under the Makabayan bloc. The proposal pushes a near P500-billion three-year "national and democratic rice development program and upholds national food security based on self-sufficiency and self-reliance."

"We are at a historical transition period, when neoliberal bureaucrats are transforming our society from a rice-producing to beggars of imported rice. To destroy the country's rice production and to totally rely on imports is a moral crime against the next generation Filipinos. We must defend the Philippine rice industry this very moment and urgently repeal the Rice Liberalization Law," Estavillo also said.

New leisure district opens in Angeles

FROM PAGE 1

ness and trade in the region.

"Currently we are roughly at 90 percent leased out as other tenants will open by January 2020," said Siy. "Our targets are the home-

grown Kapampangan businesses and we are gladly inviting them to establish here."

The Infinity is a 40-hectare township and newest flagship project of the JENRA Group of Companies developed by ACBI, its new proper-

ty development arm.

ACBI is developing the site to provide commercial, office, residential, educational, recreational and medical tourism.

The JENRA Group of Companies is one of Pampanga's top home-

grown business clusters known for their chain of supermarkets and malls.

Meanwhile, to help alleviate the worsening traffic situation in the area, The Shoppes has also opened an alternative route in its vicinity.

—Joann M. Valenciano

Low poverty rate belied...

FROM PAGE 1

parameter, the poor in the country would comprise from 50 to 80 percent, while only about 20 percent are above the poverty line.

He decried the recent report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

that poverty incidence declined from 17.9 percent in 2015 to 12.1 percent in 2018, based on a P10,727 monthly poverty threshold for a family of five members.

"Government bureaucrats pride themselves of high education, but they have become desperate

in churning out fantastic situation outside the realm of common sense. Their poverty threshold tells us that a Filipino who has only P80 in his wallet is not poor," Hicap said.

He recalled that 2018 was the first year of implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration

and Inclusion (TRAIN) law and the rice crisis when the retail price of rice reached as high as P50 per kilo.

"Thus, it was very improbable that poor Filipinos rose from the level of poverty during the period," Hicap said.

—Ding Cervantes

Singaporean SEAG delegates reach out...

FROM PAGE 1

opportunity for the athletes to know they are fortunate with what they have back home."

"It is not only about themselves winning medals, it's also about doing good, becoming a better person as part of their athletic journey," Chan noted.

The athletes and delegates felt overwhelmed and said the 30th SEA

Games have been a wonderful experience for them. They also said the hospitality of the Filipinos, aside from the food, has made their stay more meaningful and special.

"We are happy that we are here. The SEA Games have been wonderful," said Bryan Ng, Singapore team coach and former athlete.

"Some of the athletes are going back to Singa-

pore tomorrow so they will not be in the closing ceremony. But this is a very good experience for them," Ng said.

Before going back to the hotel, the Singaporeans made a quick sojourn to a nearby Jollibee restaurant in Clark Freeport where they partook of the famous Chicken Joy and Spaghetti.

Founded by Sr. Mary Casas, the Duyan ni Maria Children's Home is a

non-government charity institution for the less fortunate, abused and orphaned children for the past 30 years.

Meanwhile, the Christmas Abe Teddy Bears and Disenyong Pinatubo ornaments made from lahar are still available at Quest Plus Conference Center. Proceeds from the sales will go to Duyan ni Maria as the hotel's chosen beneficiary.

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of REYNALDO SANTOS TEODORO who died intestate on August 2, 2007 in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot No. 1-0, of the subd. plan Psd-03-079171, being a portion of Lot 1, Psd035403-049640, L.R.C. Rec. No.) situated in the Barrio of Buensuceso, Municipality of Arayat, Province of Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 399145-R, before Notary Public Ryann T. Rueda as per Doc No. 233, Page No. 48, Book No. VII, Series of 2019.

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

NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that ERLINDA COROLLO CASTANTE, Filipino, resident of 1192 Surla St., Balibago, Angeles City and sole heir of JOHANNES F.M. NOORDHUIZEN who died intestate on June 27, 2012 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication on his estate, more particularly described as a two (2) storey building that stands on a parcel of land situated at Josefa Subdivision, Brgy. Malabanas, Angeles City and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 198476 in the Registry of Deeds of Angeles City and a Joint Bank Account (Dollar and Peso) in some Philippine Bank, before Notary Public Pepito G. Rivas as per Doc No. 114, Page No. 23, Book No. VII, Series of 2012.

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

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of Sps. JOSE QUIASON CRUZ and CONSOLACION YALUNG-CRUZ who died intestate on October 16, 1980 and October 25, 2015, respectively, both in Angeles City, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on their estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 224-B, of the subdivision plan Psd-03-080371, being a portion of Lot 224, Angeles Cad. L.R.C. Rec. No.) with an old house built thereon, situated in the Barrio of Sto. Rosario, City of Angeles and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 110745, before Notary Public Reydon P. Canlas as per Doc No. 2010, Page No. 68, Book No. 75, Series of 2019.

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

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that **EUGENIO S. MERCADO JR.**, Filipino, married, a resident of Lourdes Sur East, Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Loss on **Petron Corporation Stock Certificate Nos. 0001521053, 0001394746, 0000775372 and 0000424675**, before Notary Public Cyril Victor N. Bermudo as per Doc No. 8816, Page No. 33, Book No. LVII, Series of 2019.
Punto! Central Luzon: December 9, 16 & 23, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **WILLY BASANGAN GUINTU** who died intestate on May 7, 2019 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 14, Block 2 of subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-48978, being a portion of Lot 630-A-2, Psd-15855, (LRC) CLRO Rec. No. 124) situated in the Barrio of Cutcut, City of Angeles, Island of Luzon and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 158955, before Notary Public Marcelino A. Pineda Jr. as per Doc No. 2693, Page No. 97, Book No. 11, Series of 2019.
Punto! Central Luzon: December 9, 16 & 23, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **FRANCISCA BALUYUT** who died intestate on August 13, 2000 in Floridablanca, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Special Power of Attorney on her estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot A of the consolidation-subd. plan (LRC) Pcs-22871, approved as a non-subdivision project, being a portion of the consolidation of Lots 10 and 11, (LRC) Psd-18964, LRC Cad. Rec. No. 1498) situated in the Bo. of Gutad, Mun. of Floridablanca, Prov. of Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 142595-R, before Notary Public Roseller T. Logronio as per Doc No. 392, Page No. 80, Book No. CLXVI, Series of 2019.
Punto! Central Luzon: December 9, 16 & 23, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **JOSE D. MARQUEZ** and **ENRICA B. MARQUEZ** who died intestate on November 7, 1976 and April 4, 2004, respectively, both in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on their estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 6, Block 78) located at EPZA Resettlement Site in Angeles City, Pampanga as evidenced by Certificate of Housing Allocation No. L1-EPZ-1614 and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 94269 in the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Pampanga, before Notary Public Reymon E. Fabros as per Doc No. 429, Page No. 100, Book No. VI, Series of 2014.
Punto! Central Luzon: December 2, 9 & 16, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of Spouses **ABDON D. MAMANGUN** and **ZENAIDA Y. MAMANGUN** who died intestate on March 2, 2018 in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga and July 22, 1998 in Manila, respectively, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on their estate, more particularly described as parcels of land, to wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 593283-R

Lot 2241-C of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-116693 being a portion of Lot 2241 of Mexico Cad, LRC Cad. Rec. No. 127, situated in the Bo. of San Vicente, Mun. of Mexico, Prov. of Pampanga;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 162920-R

Lot 2, Blk. 5 of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-59305, Sheet 1, being a portion of Lot 2, (LRC) Psd-57235, L.R.C. Rec. No. S714, situated in the Bo. of Telabastagan, Mun. of San Fernando, Prov. of Pampanga;

before Notary Public Paolo M. Benitez as per Doc No. 971, Page No. 73, Book No. V, Series of 2019.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 25, December 2 & 9, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT THIRD JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 55 MACABEBE, PAMPANGA

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF PEDRITO M. USI UNDER LOCAL REGISTRY NO. 1261, more particularly:

- (a) To correct the entry appearing in Entry No. 6 – Date of Birth from “August 14, 1970” to “August 14, 1971.”

PEDRITO M. USI,

Petitioner,

-versus-

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS NO. 19-0959(M)

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MASANTOL, PAMPANGA, THE NATIONAL STATISTICIAN, AND ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE OR CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN THIS CASE,

Respondents.

X-----X

ORDER

On October 29, 2019, petitioner Pedrito M. Usi filed the verified Petition, of even date, praying that the Local Civil Registrar of Masantol, Pampanga, and the Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City, be ordered to correct Entry No. 6 – “Date of Birth” from “August 14, 1970” to “August 14, 1971” appearing in his Certificate of Live Birth with Local Civil Registrar No. 1261 on file in said offices.

This court finds the petition to be sufficient in form and substance.

WHEREFORE, this court hereby (a) sets this case for hearing on the petition on **February 18, 2020 at 11:30 in the morning** at the **Session Hall of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 55, Macabebe, Pampanga**; (b) orders the petitioner (i) to cause the publication of this Order once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in an accredited newspaper of general circulation in the province of Pampanga at his own expense; (ii) 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, the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Pampanga, the Local Civil Registrar of Masantol, Pampanga, the Civil Registrar General of the Philippines; and (iii) to show proof of said service to this court on said date and time of hearing; (c) orders all persons interested in the petition to appear before this court on said date and time of hearing and to show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted; (d) orders this court's OIC – Branch Clerk of Court to furnish copies of this Order to the petitioner, his counsel, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Pampanga, the Local Civil Registrar of Masantol, Pampanga, the Civil Registrar General of the Philippines and the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Macabebe, Pampanga; and (e) awaits the entry of appearance of the Office of the Solicitor General in this case.

SO ORDERED.

Macabebe, Pampanga, October 30, 2019.

MARIA JOSEPHINE M. ROSARIO-MERCADO
Judge

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



Spotlight Arci Pineda

Winning answers of South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi at Miss Universe 2019

MISS UNIVERSE 2018 Catriona Gray crowns Miss Universe 2019 Zozibini Tunzi, the third woman from South Africa to win the title and the second black woman to wear the crown. The first was Miss Angola Leila Lopes.

She and the two other finalists, Madison Anderson of Puerto Rico and Sofia Aragón of Mexico, were asked this question: “What is the most important thing we should teach young girls today?”

Miss South Africa 2019 answered: “I think the most important thing we should be teaching young girls today is leadership.

“It’s something that has been lacking young girls and women for a very long time, not because we don’t want to, but because of what society has labeled women to be.

“I think we are the most powerful beings [in] the world, and that we should be given every opportunity.

“And that is what we should be teaching young girls, to take up space. Nothing is important as taking up space in society and submitting yourself.”

Zozibini also nailed the Q&A segment for Top 5, where finalists were asked individual questions.

Pageant host Steve Harvey asked Zozibini: “Are leaders of today doing enough to protect future generations from climate change? If not, what more should they be doing?”

The 26-year-old model answered, “Steve, I think that the future leaders could do a little bit more, but I feel like we as individuals, ourselves, can also play a part in making the climate the way it should be in the future.

“I mean, we have children protesting for climate and I feel like as adults, we should join as well, we should have corporations join as well, and the government should take it seriously.

“I mean, from 6th grade, I’ve been learning that the climate is deteriorating and the planet is dying, and it is up to us to keep our planet safe.”

The pageant’s final tally named Madison Anderson 1st runner-up, Sofia Aragón 2nd runner-up, and Zozibini Tunzi Miss Universe 2019.

Zozibini is the third woman from South Africa to win the title, and the first black woman since Miss Angola Leila Lopes was crowned Miss Universe 2011.

Catriona Gray passed on the Miss Universe crown to Zozibini at the pageant’s grand coronation night at the Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, Georgia.



PHILIPPINE BET Gazini Ganados, most stylish among the top 20 finalists of the Miss Universe 2019 pageant held on December 8 (December 9 in Manila), at Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, Georgia.

Two of Gazini’s most memorable fashion moments happened during the preliminaries of the competition last December 6 (December 7, Philippine time).

Donned in creations by the Cebu based-fashion designer Cary Santiago, Gazini shimmered in gold in the evening gown competition and dazzled in her Philippine eagle-inspired ensemble in the national costume parade.

Oli said one of his personal favorites was Gazini’s arrival outfit, an orange jumpsuit created by Jun Ador, when she landed in Atlanta.

He said, “It was so beautiful, bold, structured and meaningful! I had to commission the great Dr. Jerome Navarro of Felizo in Bulacan to do the phoenix brooch she used for that, the symbol of the city of Atlanta.”

At the pageant’s photo shoot for Chi, Gazini was draped in a red-and-pink Rajo Laurel dress, another of Oli’s favorites.

He said, “It was so striking they saw Gazini’s modeling prowess!”

Gazini stood out in a fuschia pink feathered dress, also designed by Jun Ador, when she watched with the other candidates the circus show Volta by Cirque du Soleil at the Atlantic Station on Wednesday, December 4.

“The cameras gravitated towards her. I think that was a moment!

“Most of the candidates wore long gowns for the show, but she opted to wear this knee-length, bead-less dress! That was quite daring” says Oli.

Another of Oli’s favorites, a vintage Cary Santiago dress that Gazini wore at a Miss Universe press junket last December 5 (December 6, in Manila).

He exclaimed, “She brought high fashion couture at 7 in the morning!!

“And it was the first time she sported her signature mid-part straight hair!! She knew when to lay out the winning card.”

Later in the same day, Gazini changed into a pink ruffled dress by Philipp Tampus for the press launch of the newly designed Miss Universe crown, the Power of Unity Crown.

On December 4, Wednesday, Gazini wore a Barong-inspired ensemble, also by Jun Ador, at the preliminary interviews.

In another side event, Gazini wore a trench coat from Kandama, which was fully handwoven by the artisans in the Julongan village of Kiangan, Ifugao.

She draped it over a red-feathered dress, a look styled by by Qurator Studio.

During the pageant’s rehearsals last December 3, Gazini was spotted wearing a jumpsuit by Steph Tan Couture.

For her final look at the Miss Universe pageant, Gazini wore a crystal-embellished jumpsuit from the House of Victoria Emporium.

According to Oli, Gazini brought 11 pieces of luggage to the Miss Universe pageant.

“In our mind, and during the planning process, we were conditioned that the pageant would run for about three weeks; however, it was later announced that it would only be for 10 days!

“To be honest, we had so much clothes! haha! She left Manila with a total of 11 huge luggage.”

Oli said Gazini was firm in her decision to feature creations by Filipino fashion designers and showcase the country’s exquisitely hand-woven fabricss.

The celebrity stylist said, “The direction from Gazini herself was clear, she wanted to show the best of the Filipino to the world!

“We incorporated bits and pieces of local fabrics, mixing them to make it modern and now!”

Oli added that Gazini was very much involved in the planning of her outfits.

He said, “Gazini was 101 percent hands-on! To be honest, she gave us a deadline.

“By this time all clothes have to be in, multiple fitting sessions, editing, pairing with accessories, etc!’ Or, ‘We have to be shooting them by this date!’

“She worked tirelessly with stylists and designers, myself... plus a huge support system in Cebu...!

“Prior to flying in Atlanta, Gazini herself scheduled dates to shoot her clothes. So we had enough time to look at each one closely. We had time to assess and edit!

“She has a lookbook, it was so organized that each look is laid out with corresponding accessories, hindi sya mallilito... so it’s a bit easier already.”

He added that when preparing for an event, Gazini would have her outfit and accessories all laid out the night before.

“She’s that organized!,” Oli said, explaining she wanted the clothes to be the least of her worries in the morning as she got ready for another day in the Miss Universe competition.

KAOHSIUNG CHRONICLE

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY BONG LACSON

VIS-À-VIS the more popular capital of Taipei in the north, Kaohsiung in the south makes Taiwan's no-less-significant other.

Aye, the *more* significant one. A quick jaunt to the Republic of China's foremost Harbour City this weekend past – ease, comfort, and pleasure courtesy of Philippines AirAsia on flight, the Kaohsiung Tourism Bureau on land – more than enough to convince this one who's had a surfeit of Taipei. Or, maybe it's just the rose-colored glasses of first impressions.

Still, Kaohsiung impresses, and how!

A fixture in just about every Asian city, the night market is taken to an impossible high at Kaohsiung's Ruifeng. Food, glorious food, in all its delectable varieties draw in an undulating tide of humanity through its aisles, nooks, and crannies. No other night market in all the Asian cities I've been to can compare to Ruifeng. Don't believe me, come and feel it for yourself.



Temples and shrines, another Asian constant, don't simply impress but impact their sacred presence around Lotus Pond – a lake, for its sheer breadth – that, to me, easily makes Kaohsiung's most popular destination.



Confucius Temple, reputedly the largest of its kind in the whole of Taiwan, lies serenely at one corner of the pond. A tree-canopied path along the banks leads to a series of temples – the Pei Chi Pavilion lorded over by Daoist deity Xuan Wu, the Spring and Autumn Pavilion with the goddess of mercy Guanyin riding a dragon at its entrance, and the most interesting twin-towered Dragon and Tiger Pagodas where it is said to be good luck to enter through the first and exit through the second. Instant recall here of that Bruce Lee starrer deemed as one of the greatest martial arts films of all time.

Across the road stands in subdued majesty Chi Ming Palace, arguably the most spectacular temple by Lotus Pond. Aye, why lotus? The sacred plant with its mystical flower abounds there, duh.

Far from the pond but richer in spiritual ambiance is Fo Guang Shan Monastery, the largest Buddhist monastery in Taiwan and home too to one of the largest charity organizations in ROC.



A welcoming hall – replete with restaurants and shops, a Starbucks too – opens up to an expansive square flanked on either side by eight Chinese pagodas – representing the Eightfold Path? – and statues of Buddha's loved ones and foremost disciples leading to a memorial hall which houses several shrines, premier among them the Jade Buddha Shrines where enshrined reputedly tooth relics of Gautama Buddha. *Om mani padme hum...*

Atop the memorial hall is what is said to be the highest seated bronze Buddha in the world, looking benignly at all who comes hither.

A trip back in time to schooling in the olden days in China is Fongyi Academy of old red brick construction, complete with classrooms and a square where student and teachers are depicted in animated statues (dolls?), plus a small shrine, and a kiosk serving Taiwan's wonderful milk tea.



A short trip down history is provided by the Cihou Fort that once guarded the harbor topped by a lighthouse whence a panoramic view of the city unfolds.

Then, there's the Dashu Old Railway Bridge, Asia's longest at the time of its completion in 1913, now a hot spot for photography.

Art's sake

As in culture, Kaohsiung is a veritable art trove too. Nowhere is this most manifest than, most aptly, in the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts – an artwork in itself: its roof inspired by the flowing canopy of banyan trees in the area but at this time evoking a manta ray or even a space ship. Completed in 2018, the center houses an opera house, a concert hall, a playhouse, a recital hall and an outdoor theater seamlessly linking the building to a park.



Art alive, up and about! pervades Pier 2 – the row of old unused warehouses repurposed to art galleries, boutique shops, diners and bars, with Kaohsiung Warehouse 2 as flagship. Interactive exhibitions and records of its historic past are housed at the Hamasen Museum of Taiwan Railway, even as its top draw is

Hamasen Pier 2 line railway ride – on a mini-train!



Kaohsiung's penchant for repurposing disused things found expression too in the Ten-Drum Ciaotou Creative Park. Once a sugar central – not unlike our Pasudeco in the City of San Fernando – the place is now a center of culture and the arts where performs a Grammy Award-winning drum and percussion band. A drumming workshop is offered to visitors before they are ushered in to a concert hall.



One for the Guinness record or maybe Ripley's is 1300 Only Porcelain – a fine-dining restaurant entirely interioered and decorated with porcelain down to its plates and platters, bowls, cups and glasses. Adjacent to it is a showroom of porcelain art with price tags running to millions in NT\$.



Art has permeated the hotel industry too. Cutesy, whimsy is Legend Hotel Liu-he with its explosion of colors in cartooned animal, ice cream, cakes and what-nots straight from nursery books and Alice in Wonderland splashed all over, from its façade to the lobby, to the elevator, the restaurant, the corridors and the rooms themselves. It's what sweet dreams of little girls and boys are made of.



At luxurious E-Da Royal Hotel, the top draws are the themed-rooms – debutante, Jurassic, pirate. In some way extensions of the eponymous amusement park adjacent to the hotel.



Amusement turns to exhilaration at the i-Ride Experience Center of Brogent Technologies. Strapped on a moving, tilting bench, feet dangling in mid-air one is taken on a bird's eye tour of Kaohsiung via a panoramic spherical screen with special effects.

At the Suzuka Circuit Park, the adrenaline rush of speed and spin with karting, bump cars, spinning rides, and Ferris wheel and a trolley too.



Long in adventure, steeped in culture and the arts, Kaohsiung is not, by any measure, wanting in romance too.



Central to Kaohsiung, in geography as well as in sentimentality, is the Love River. A daytime cruise on board a solar-powered boat only stirred the imagination to a nighttime ride on gondolas, passed the twinkling lights on trees, the sound of music and the smell of coffee and wine of the cafes along the banks. With the one you love.

Aye, more than enough reason to come back.



(AirAsia flies Clark-Kaohsiung every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday)

Ing kasalesayan ning Kapampangan (The history of Pampanga)

BY FR. EDILBERTO SANTOS
PART 12

KABANATA 3b

Salesayan Tamu Ing Milabas
Ing ausan tamung *bale* ngening banuang iti, ausan tayang *balay* ketang banuang 1860. Makanian mu naman ing *pale*, *palay*; ing *dase*, *dasay*; ing *sake*, *sakay*; ing *mate*, *matay*; ing *ugse*, *ugsay*. (Bergaño 1860).

Makanian mu rin, ing *salese*, *salesay*; ing *salesen*, *salesayan* o *salaysayan* (to fix, to arrange, to explain, to clarify, to answer, to compute, to narrate). Keng Pilipinu: ayusin, ipaliwanag, liwanagin, sagutin, bilangin, ikwento. (Reyes 2002: 70-71. Bergaño 1860. Salesay)

Bayu la datang ding Kastila, gagamitan do ding tau keti king kapulauan tamu (in our archipelago) ding amanung *kasalaysayan* (*ka-SALAYSAY-an*) ampon *kasaysayan* (*ka-SAYSAY-an*). Dening aduang deni menibat la king amanung *saysay*. Mu pin, migdatun ya ing *LA* ketang sadiang amanung (*sa-LA-ysay*), at milako ya ing *LA* king kelambatan at mitagan ya ing (*sa--ysay*). (Reyes 2002: 66. Bergaño 1860. Salesay).

Ing amanung "saysay", adua ya buri sabian: (1) kwentu (story), ampon (2) maulaga (important). Ing amanung "kasaysayan", ing buri na sabian "kwentung maulaga king metung a grupu da ring tau". Ya naman ing buri na sabian ning "kasalaysayan" o "kasalesayan". (Reyes 2002: 60)

King kapamilitan ning kasalesayan, akua talang abalu ding maulagang bage tungkul karing Kapampangan bayu la datang ding Kastila: ding karelang "alamat (legends), tarsila or salsilla (Islamic families' genealogies), mitolohiya (mythology), salawikain or kawikain (sayings), bugtong (figurative sayings), awit (songs), ritwal (rituals)," at aliua pa. Abalu ta

karen ing karelang pamibiebie (their way of living), nung nanu-nanu ing tutunggen dang maulaga at ali (their value system), nung nanu-nanu la ding karelang kapanualan (their belief system), nung makananu dang sasaganan ing kapagsubukan (their coping mechanisms)", at aliua pa. (Reyes 2002: 101-2).

Pabalu na naman kekatamu ning kasalesayan nung nukarin la menibat, nung nanu-nanu ing tutunggen dang maulagang miliari king bie dang milabas, at maliliari king kasalukuyan dang bie, at ababatian dang maliari king daratang dang panaun. Pabalu na kekatamu ning kasalesayan nung makanunung, king bie da aldo-aldo, pane lang manantabe karela ding antu (anito) a magdatun busal da, at nung makananu lang mibage ding aduang yatu: ing yatu da ding tau at ing yatu da ding espiritu. (Ibid.: 61).

Ngening kasalukuyan, ababalu tamu ing kasalesayan ning Kapampangan king kapamilitan ning pamamasa karing makasulat. Dapot ketang bayu la datang ding Kastila, ababalu da deng Kapampangan ing milabas, e king kapamilitan ning pamamasa, uling ding makibalu kanita ali da pabalu ita king kapamilitan ning pamaniulat. Ababalu da ring anak karing pengari da at aliua pang makatua, at deni naman ikua dang abalu ita uling sinabi da karela detang pengari da ampon aliuang makatua, makanian, takbang-takbang pabalik. Sali't saling lahi, ata pin king amanung Pilipinu. Oral tradition, ata naman keng English. (Ibid., local adaptation).

Uli na ning kasalesayan a dimdam dang yan, pepakamalan da ing karelang panga-Kapampangan, at penikuanan dang mambag ban sumulung ya pa ing Kapampangan: bilang karinan, bilang tau, bilang amanu. (Ibid., local adaptation).
(*Abatan ya ing kasuglung*)

Love yourself

OTHER PEOPLE may say that teaching is one of the most stressful jobs that a person could engaged with. Because of the many paper-work's need to be done, accomplished and passed. It couldn't be denied that this is really something taxing and tedious. But we cannot be heroes that would work and die just to fulfil our profession. Aside, from treating this as a great source of living a.k.a, bread and butter of life, we must not feel so stress with what we are doing which would eventually lead us to suffer from some health problems, like uncontrolled blood pressure, stroke, depression, fatigue and others.

Yes, we were categorized as unsung heroes, but it doesn't necessary mean that we would offer ourselves to the point of chasing death with our chosen career. The ultimate thing that must be done is to love our profession, be dedicated but never to forget to give time for yourself.

Giving time to ourselves to have a sound mind and healthy body, as well as to take good care of our health.

Though we have lots of workloads, we must still sleep eight hours a day and eat at least three times a day. Also, we must find time to breathe and relax if we love ourselves. Let us not push ourselves beyond our limits, in this way we could still live longer and serve children for longer years.

Another thing is to make things balanced. There is a time for work, and there is a time for rest. Do not spend yourself indulging more than what is required from us unless it is highly demanded in the service. Great teaching is evident when you know you have done more than enough, but still find time to spend for your loved ones. In this care, you will enjoy what you do as you know you are living a meaningful, and fulfilled life.

Lastly, to be great is to have faith in the Lord to entrust to him all our struggles and challenges that comes our way. Prayer and faith will give us more energy and will power to enjoy our teaching.

CYNTHIA S. DIZON
TEACHER III
MEXICO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(Unsolicited contributions here are unedited, unabridged, as is. Errors in grammar, syntax, etc, solely the writer's. -- Editor)

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IPC, Katuwang Foundation break ground for school buildings in Pampanga, Tarlac

THE International Police Commission (IPC) with Katuwang Foundation through Ambassador to United Nations Gen. Glennbert Lazo broke ground for the construction of three four-storey, 16-classroom school buildings in Tarlac and Pampanga, Monday.

Lazo was joined by Maj. Gen. Elisa Lazo, IPC director general Galma Arcilla, Brig. Gen. Ramil Guiao, Engr. Erwin Garcia and Col. Orlando Sicat, IPC vice president for planning and marketing, in the capsule laying ceremony held at the Balutu Elementary School and San Antonio Elementary School in Concepcion, Tarlac, and Mabalacat National

High School in Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

According to Lazo, a total of P51 million is allotted for every school building. The funding will be provided by the United Nations.

"Matagal na po tayong tumutulong sa ating mga kababayan na hindi naabutan ng tulong mula sa gobyerno. Hindi lang po tayo focused sa mga schools, pati mga ospital, tulay at iba pa na kailangan ng ating mga communities," Lazo said.

"Nararapat po na tumulong tayo sa mga kababayan natin. Karamihan po sa mga eskwelahan natin ay binabaha o ginagawang evacuation center. Kami sa IPC and TAOC-IG ay tutu-

long hanggang nabubuhay kami to provide free and quality education for the next generation. Sa mga ibang lugar po na wala pang eskwelahan, maaari po kayong lumapit sa aming tanggapan at magfile ng request," Arcilla added.

Also present in the ceremony are the members of Transnational Anti-Organized Crime-Intelligence Group.

Other school beneficiaries are San Antonio E.S., Siran E.S., and Magsaysay E.S. in Guagua; Dau High School, and Dau Senior High School in Lubao; and San Jose E.S., and San Jose High School in Floridablanca.

—Press release



Barangay Dau chair Derrick Llanos Dee, Lt. Gen. Elisa Lazo, Ambassador to UN director Glennbert Lazo, IPC Gen. Galma Arcilla, MNHS Master Teacher 2 Dr. Vilma Tacbat, Brig. Gen. Emil Guiao and Engr. Erwin Garcia lead the ground breaking ceremony of four-storey 16-classroom school building in Mabalacat National High School.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DENG PANGILINAN

No Hidden Agenda!

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

BOC Subic overshoots revenue target by P5-B

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—In an unprecedented history of the revenue generation history of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) district office here was achieved this year, the first time, according to BOC

old timers aside from consistently hitting its monthly collections target also generated a P5 billion surplus income during its 11 months operations. The district headed by Collector Maritess Mar-

tin, reported that a cumulative income of P29.690 billion was realized by the BOC unit from January to November while its assigned target given by Aduana for the year 2019 amounted to P24.609 billion, representing 20.64 percent of the more than expected.

The district last year overall collection performance amounted to P22.571 billion. The P29.690 billion only covers the eleven months of the year.



Martin

But the December revenue report may indicate some slight decline in income due to the decline of petroleum product imports beginning the last week of November and ship arrivals due to the regulated movements during the 30th Seagames period.

What noticeable by Subic Port observers that since the deployment to Subic by Collector Martin, the average monthly income of the Port although still suffering from personnel shortage, increased to over P2 billion a month from revenues of petroleum products, industrial and agriculture base products.

Martin attributed marked improvement of the district accomplishments to the full cooperation of Team Subic and close working relationship with SBMA Seaport and the private container terminal operator, Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. (SBITC), a wholly owned subsidiary of global port operator—ICTSI.

—Willie E. Capulong

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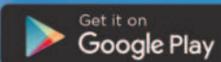
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Photo by Butch Toong
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