

Fishers group hits SMC for defying Duterte stand vs. reclamation projects

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – The militant Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) denounced San Miguel Corp. for what it called “contempt” of President Duterte’s opposition to reclamation projects in Manila Bay in pushing for its 2,500-hectare Aerotropolis project in Bulakan, Bulacan.

This, even as it challenged Duterte to issue an executive order de-

claring the bay as a “reclamation-free zone.”

“Mariin naming kinokondena ang hakbang na ito ng San Miguel Corp., ang pagtutulak ng Aerotropolis project na malinaw na magpapalayas sa mga maliliit na mangingisda ng Bulacan at wawasak sa marine environment ng Manila Bay. Ito ay lantarang paglabag sa kautusan ng Supreme Court na i-clean up, i-restore at i-rehabili-

PAGE 6 PLEASE

RALLY. Fisherfolk, religious and environmental groups protest San Miguel Corp.’s Aerotropolis project in Barangay Taliptip, Bulakan, Bulacan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PHL pork production sees decline due to ASF



NLEX Caloocan Interchange now taking shape

THE MULTI-LEVEL NLEX Caloocan Interchange along C3 Road, which will serve as strategic converging point of NLEX Harbor Link Segment 10, its C3-R10 Section, and the NLEX Con-

connector, will soon be completed with a massive steel girder launching undertaken recently.

This interchange is aimed at providing efficient journeys for motorists traversing the said express-

way network from NLEX to Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Manila and vice versa.

“The installation of these girders is crucial in our construction”

PAGE 6 PLEASE

Imports to hit all-time high

BY ASHLEY MANABAT

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – For the first time in a decade, the Philippine’s pork production may see a decline, historical records from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) show

PAGE 6 PLEASE

US charity org cries libel

ANGELES CITY — A cyber libel case has been filed against a member of a local foundation and two journalists for their alleged malicious imputations against a renowned charity organization based in Michigan, USA.

The cyber libel case was filed by the top executives of the World Medical Relief Inc. (WMRI), a 67-year old charity organization, against William J. Lima, a former member of the Board of Trustee of WMR-Philippine National Business and Coordination Center Foundation Inc. (PNBC-CFI), journalist Benjamin Pulta and Cynthia V. Luna, acting managing editor of the Philippine News Agency (PNA).



Samson

In a 10-page complaint, WMRI president and CEO George Samson filed the case last December 13, 2019 for violation of Section 4 (c) Paragraph 4 of RA 10175 known as Cy-

PAGE 7 PLEASE

2020 is Year of the Piso with the Cebu Pacific Super Seat Fest

SPRING INTO action and get a head-start on the 2020 long weekends and vacays with this early Chinese New Year treat from Cebu Pacific. It’s Year of the Piso from the airline that gives the

best year-round low fares.

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From 12:00am to 8:00am on January 16,

scour for seats because it’s lucky travels to all local destinations. Explore the rest of the Philippines—home to some of the world’s best island-destinations in the

PAGE 3 PLEASE

Clark charity groups set P500K for Taal victims

CLARK FREEPORT – Two leading charity organizations here have joined forces in extending support to victims of the Taal Volcano eruptions.

Irineo “Bong” Alvaro, Jr. chairman of Bridges of Benevolent Initiatives Foundation (BBIF) announced that it is donating P500,000 to victims of the eruption and ashfall that have affected Batangas, Laguna and Cavite provinces.

“The devastation of Taal Volcano is huge. Immediate measures are needed to augment the ongoing relief operations,” he said. “On our part here through the BBIF and World Medical Relief Inc, Philippines (WMRI) this allocation for this particular need was released yesterday.”

Alvaro, newly appointed Ambassador of Health by WMRI recently, said that these are the times when all should

be able to help those in need. He also called on other sectors of society to reach out to the displaced.

He said that he has gathered volunteers from BBIF and WMRI-Phils who are now currently preparing bags which contain N95 dust mask, rice, canned goods, blankets and biscuits. Delivery has been scheduled next week in affected areas. Also, the chairman of Clark Investors and Locators Association, Alvaro called on business executives to participate in various outreaches aimed at alleviating the plight of victims of the volcanic eruption.

George Samson, president and CEO of Michigan-based WMRI, lauded the efforts of BBIF and WMRI-PH, assuring them of full support in various medical and humanitarian outreaches.



DONATION. Arayat Mayor Bon Alejandrino personally distributes clothes to evacuees at the Batangas Provincial Sports Complex. **PHOTO COURTESY OF PAMPANGA PIO**

Top drug personality nabbed

SUBIC, Zambales – Joint operatives from the Subic Municipal Police Starton, 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC) and the Zambales Provincial Intelligence Branch (ZPIB) arrested a top drug personality in Barangay Calapacuan in this town.

In his report to Zambales Police Provincial Office (ZPPO) director Col. Ponce Rogelio Peñones, Jr., Police Major Gilbert Diaz, head of

Subic PNP, identified the suspect as Jomar Renn, 43, resident of Manangan St., Purok 3, Barangay Calapacuan.

The report said Renn in the ZPPO's top wanted list for drug-related activities. The suspect was apprehended after a poseur-buyer bought a piece of plastic sachet containing suspected shabu from him.

Confiscated from Renn were one small heat-sealed

transparent plastic sachet containing suspected shabu, the P500-bill marked money, 15 small heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing suspected shabu, a pouch, and a digital pocket weighing scale.

The suspect is now facing charges for violation of Section 5 and 11 of Article 2 of the Republic Act 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002).

–**Johnny R. Reblando**

3 wanted timbog

BALANGA CITY – Dinakip nito ng mga nakaraang araw ng mga tauhan ng CIDG-Bataan sa magkakahiwalay na operations laban sa mga “wanted persons” ang tatlo katao na nahaharap sa ibat-ibang kaso.

Kinilala ni Police Major Isabelo Ganao, hepe ng CIDG Bataan, ang mga suspek na sina James Merabuena na nahuli sa Barangay Roosevelt, Dinalupihan na may kasong act of ILasciviousnes; Felicidad King Yap Borje na nadakip

sa Barangay Palihan, Hermosa na may kasong perjury, at Michelle Miguel Montemayor na nadakip sa Barangay San Jose, Dinalupihan na may kasong paglabag sa B.P. 22 (estafa).

Si Merabuena ay pinagbabayad ng kaukulang piyansang P12,000; kay King Yap Borje naman ay P18,000; at kay Montemayor ay P15,000 para sa pansamantalang kalayaan ng mga ito.

–**Johnny R. Reblando**

ASF hits Bataan town

BY ERNIE B. ESCONDE

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan -- African swine fever (ASF) has affected this only land-locked town in the province after laboratory tests showed that some hogs in four barangays were found positive of the virus.

Mayor Maria Angela Garcia announced Wednesday what she considered as bad news.

As to the cause of the virus, the mayor said “hindi pa 100 percent na na-identify pero sa meeting mukhang from swill feeding. Ibig sabihin, isang potential source ng ASF ay ang swill feeding”.

Garcia met with provincial veterinarian Alberto Venturina and representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Region 3, in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

“Gusto kong ibalita ang isang nakakalungkot na balita na we have confirmed na merong mga ASF-positive farms sa bayan ng Dinalupihan,” the mayor said.

“We are coordinating with the proper authorities and the province on how to control, maintain, contain and manage the situation. And of course,

we are asking the public for their cooperation,” she added.

Garcia said Venturina will also discuss additional preventive measures against ASF with municipal agriculturists and municipal veterinarians.

A reliable source said a piggery in one of the four barangays has already depopulated its swine stock but the informant could not say how many pigs were already killed.

Dinalupihan has 46 barangays. In the four affected barangays, there are backyard piggeries and commercial farms.

“Sobrang mabagsik ang virus na ito kaya huwag itago, dapat i-report. We have to face the situation, we cannot just leave it on the ground. We have to confront it,” Garcia said.

She assured the public that measures based on protocol were in place, checkpoints strictly implemented.

Garcia said she has asked the sangguniang bayan headed by Vice Mayor Renato Matawaran to hold special session to discuss additional measures needed. She also conferred with all barangay chairmen.



Pinagmamasdan ng mga benepisyaryo ang mga baka na ipinamamahagi sa kanila sa ilalim ng sustainable livelihood program ng DSWD at LGU Zambales.

KUHA NI ARMAND M. GALANG

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

Baka, kambing ipinamahagi sa Zambales

NI ARMAND M. GALANG

IBA, Zambales - Bilang residente ng coastal municipality ng Cabangan ay napakahirap para sa pamilya ni Edgar Rafanan ang mga pagkakataon, lalo na kung tagulan, na hindi sila maaaring pumalaot upang mangisda.

Ang pangingsda, aniya, ang tanging kabuhayan para sa kanila. “Mahirap talaga, walang kita kapag hindi makapangisda lalo na kung may bagyo,” sabi ni Rafanan.

Nitong Miyerkules, si Rafanan ay isa sa 60 benepisyaryo na tumanggap ng pararamihing baka sa ilalim ng sustainable livelihood program (SLP) ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) at pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Zambales sa pangunguna ni Gov. Hermogenes Eb-

dane, Jr. kaya nakatagpo siya ng bagong pag-asa.

Paliwanag ni Rafanan, dati ay may alagang baka rin ang kanyang biyenan at napakalaki raw ng tulong nito sa pamilya.

“Kapag may kita sa pangingsda ay tuloy-tulpy lang ang pag-aalaga sa baka. Pag hindi makalangisda, lalo pag tagulan, magbenta ng isa para sa pag-aaral ng mga bata,” sabi ni Rafanan.

Ayon kay provincial social welfare and development office Merlie Pastor ang mga recipient ng programa ay nabibilang sa benepisyaryo ng Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

Bukod sa 60 baka, bahagi rin nito ang pamamahagi ng 150 kambing, at 43 set ng welding machines. Bahagi ito ng P27-milyon SLP ng ahensiya, ayon sa kanya.

“Ito po’y na-download sa

province of Zambales para tayo po ang mag-implement,” sabi ni Pastor.

Ang pamamahagi na ginanap sa bakuran ng provincial agriculture office dito ay dinaluhan din nina dating board member Rolex Estrella, SLP regional coordinator Vencie Vertulfo, mga opisyal ng provincial veterinary office, at iba pa.

Binigyang-diin ni Estrella na isa sa mga pangunahing agenda ni Ebdane ang paglikha at pag-aangat ng kabuhayan ng kanilang mga kababayan.

“Ang mensahe ni Gov. Ebdane sa ating mga kababayan ay pahalagahan yung programa. Ibibigay po sa kanila yung mga cattle, yung mga kambing, sana ay alagaan po nila sapagkat sila naman po yung unang-unang magbi-benefit,” pahayag ni Estrella.

Lubao awards motorcycles to help in barangay cleanup



CLEANUP 'DRIVE'. Mayor Esmeralda G. Pineda awards 42 cargo-type motorcycles to barangay officials of Lubao, Pampanga to augment the municipal government's fleet of vehicles collecting solid wastes in the barangays. With the mayor are Vice Mayor Jay B. Montemayor, Councilor Edgar Dabu and Association of Barangay Captains president Rolan Sibug. **PHOTO COURTESY OF ALBERT B. LACANLALE**

LUBAO, Pampanga—The municipal government here has purchased P3.7-million worth of cargo-type motorcycles to help in the garbage collection in the barangays.

Mayor Esmeralda G. Pineda on Tuesday turned-over the motorcycle to 42 of the town's 44 barangays in an effort to make garbage collections in the village more consistent.

The motorcycles were purchased thru a bidding held in 2019 where Ramas-Uypitching Sons, Inc. (Rusi) Motors of Dumaguete City won with the lowest bid amount of P3,738,000.

Though the funding and bidding was completed under her term, Mayor Pineda credited Board Member Mylyn Pineda-Cayabyab, the former mayor, for the approval of the project.

The motorcycles are powered by four-stroke 175cc, 5-speed engines and custom-made with manual-dumping cargo bins.

Mayor Pineda said the motorcycles will be used as additional vehicles in the garbage collection efforts of the barangays especially in areas accessible only by narrow roads and difficult for garbage trucks to reach.

The vehicles can also be used for emergency responses, the mayor said.

Barangay captains, led by league president Roland Sibug, personally received the motorcycles in simple turnover rites and the signing of deeds of donation held at the municipal hall.

Mayor Pineda reminded the barangay officials to take good care of the vehicles and ascertain that the operators of the units are properly trained and briefed on traffic laws.

—Albert B. Lacanlale

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FROM PAGE 1

world. Instead of seeing vlogs or images, get real-life experience canyoneering down Kawasan Falls in Cebu, kayaking through karst cliffs in Palawan or lazing on the white beach of Kalanggaman Island in Leyte.

From 8:00am to

4:00pm, get ready because it's lucky travels to East Asia! China, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea routes go on sale. Visit the world's largest retail and trade fairs in Guangzhou, get a Hallyu fix in Seoul, or take a trip to the UNESCO world heritage village of Shirakawa-go in Nagoya.

From 4:00pm to 12:00midnight, all destinations in Southeast Asia (Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia), Australia (Melbourne, Sydney), as well as Dubai go on sale. Explore Bali, go on a cruise along Halong Bay in Vietnam; or try going on a desert safari or riding a camel in Dubai.

While Day 1 of the sale are for online bookings, Day 2 (January 17) is a free-for-all, with all remaining seats on sale the whole day, and all payment centers available for web and mobile app bookings.

Travel period is from July 1 to December 31, 2020.

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—Press release

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Editorial

Adding insult to injury

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is offering zero-interest loans to farmers and fishermen who lost crops, livestock, and livelihood to the Taal Volcano eruptions.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar said that under the government's Survival and Recovery program, farmers and fishermen can take out a P25,000 loan payable in three years with zero interest.

Already a pittance considering the initial damage across the Calabarzon region the eruptions have caused: DAR itself estimating it at P577.4 million covering some 2,700 hectares of farmland and some 2,000 animals, the loan of P25,000 – its being zero-interest notwithstanding – makes a grievous insult to those it intends to help.

That is when arrayed against what government has been dishing out to people not even in any dire strait, indeed, in the best of times, to wit:

P50,000 cash gift to each birthday celebrator among the Philippine Marine contingents feted by President Duterte at the very same time the volcano was vomiting devastation upon Batangas and its environs; and earlier, P150,000 Christmas bonuses Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano doled out among the House staff; even much earlier, the provision of executive jest for police and Army top brass.

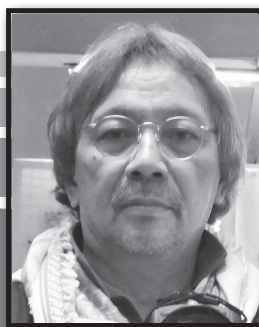
Not to mention the multi-billion-peso intel funds awarded by the House to the Office of the President.

Truly reprehensible is the insult this regime has heaped upon the victims of the Taal Volcano eruptions with Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año *issuing a* "...call on the public to donate clean drinking water, food, emergency medicines and other basic essentials (e.g., tents, mats, blankets, water containers, cooking pots, etc.) for the use of those currently in evacuation centers. The donations may be coursed through the DSWD or directly to the LGUs."

This, even as the ink of Duterte's signature on the P4.1-trillion 2020 budget was yet to dry.

This, even as the regime has, since its accession to power in 2016, consistently and epically slashed the calamity fund, starting off with that gargantuan P23-billion decrease from the P38.9 billion of its predecessor.

The people, eruption victims and otherwise, deserve neither these insults nor this government.



peryodikit.blogspot.com

Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Opinion

RISING FROM THE ASHES

E co magmalun... Agyu tamu

HASHTAGS ABOUND with the Taal Volcano eruptions but we have yet to see any stirring slogan that could serve as a rallying cry for the victims to rise from the dire straits they have been consigned to.

Like what we've had in our own Pinatubo experience. That proved beyond doubt their efficacy of motivating, indeed of rousing, of transforming victims into victors. So, we remember anew...

E KO magmalun, mibangun ya ing Pampanga.

The exhortation of Gov. Bren Z. Guiao for his people to end their collective grief, rise from despair, and believe in a renaissance Pampanga brought the first ray of hope in the wake of the Mount Pinatubo eruptions.

It was the faintest flicker of hope though, the Kapampangan trapped in the most desperate straits: damned in a wasteland of buried homes and broken dreams, doomed in a landscape of death and desolation.

Beyond PR savvy – of which Guiao was a guru – the slogan was founded on the governor's unwavering faith in the Kapampangan character: of grit and resiliency, that have served him well in rising from every adversity, be it socio-political-economic, as in the agrarian unrest, the Marcos dictatorship and the communist rebellion; or natural, as in the floods that perennially devastated the croplands and aqua farms of the province and damaged its infrastructure...

A faith well placed. A prophesy coming to pass. Pampanga indeed rising from the ashes of Pinatubo to use that overwrought cliché. As Bren Zablan Guiao promised. As my foreword in the book *Pinatubo: Triumph of the Kapampangan Spirit* (2008) put it.

Agyu Tamu!
FROM OUT of the depths of desolation and despair, a cry – faint at first, then resonant all across the city.

There rekindled some flicker of hope that the city can rise again, if only the people believed in themselves – that, yes: "We Can."

Summoning storied People Power, Acting Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan led thousands of his constituents to the Abacan River to confront the gravest threat to their very existence: Lahar.

"Pala Ko, Buhay Mo," the activity was named.

With picks and shovels, hoes and rakes – many with no implement other than their bare hands, the determined populace sandbagged the riverbanks – bamboo stakes serving as improvised sheet piles – in a bid to check further scouring by lahar. It was futile as pathetic an effort, with but ten minutes of lahar flow, not the slightest trace of the day's work remained.

The determination of the community though gained international respect and recognition, their activity winning for the coordinating agency, the Angeles City "Kuliat" Jaycees, the Best Community Involvement Project in the 47th World Jaycees Congress in Miami, Florida.

The can-do spirit at the Abacan River thence inspiring and spawning clean-up projects all around the city. Manufacturers joined their craftsmen and artisans in rebuilding their factories to revive productivity. Among the first was Cruz Wood Industries which resumed its manufacture and export of high-end furniture within 45 days after the eruptions.

At Fields Avenue, bar girls and bar owners themselves hosed mud from their dance floors, sprayed the ash off their neon billboards, and opened up even to zero customers if only to perk up the place. US veterans that opted to

stay helped in the famous avenue's clean-up.

The abandoned Clark golf course was literally dug up from several meters of sand and ash by the Angeles City golfers in a team-up with the PAF's Clark Air Base Command. And made it playable in due time, the constant threat of ashfall providing additional degree of difficulty to their drives, pitches and putts.

So it is clichéd that familiarity breeds contempt. So it was with lahar, the dread and horror it initially brought lost with the advent of heavy rains: its scalding heat fizzled, its viscosity dissolved with the abundance of water.

Lived with lahar, the Angeleños did. And even profited from it. Where lahar flowed – at the Abacan River – enterprise flourished.

With the bridge totally destroyed, passenger vehicles loaded and offloaded commuters at each end of the gap. For them to go down the river and cross to the other side.

Makeshift ladders of all makes – steel, aluminium, bamboo, wood – and sizes were soon ranged against both bluffs of the river to ease the ascent and descent of the commuters – for a fee of course.

To cross the river, commuters had a choice of the "Pajero" – and improvised sedan chair, and the "Patrol" – the carabao-drawn farmer's cart locally known as *gareta*. Again, for a fee.

The pumice stones belched from the volcano's bowels became a principal source of livelihood, a backyard industry. Crushed to golf-ball size, the pumice was used in stone-washing denims. Handicrafts, ornaments, even art objects were fashioned out of pumice rock, among the more familiar were Japanese stone lanterns, ashtrays, religious images – the head of the crucified Christ, angels and cherubs – and miniature jeepneys.

Needless to say, sand quarrying became a principal source of income in the city.

With the sense of normalcy returning to the city, there arose the need to jumpstart the still-lethargic local economy. Thus newly-elected Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan and his confidant, the activist Alexander Cauquiran, brainstormed *Tigtigan, Terakan King Dalan*.

Grounded on the defining character of Angeles as an entertainment city, the Mardi Gras-like festivity – of street music and dancing, of food and drinks – ably delivered to the nation and to the world: "Happy Days are Here Again."

A happy beginning
AS THE phoenix birthed itself from its own ashes, to rise, to soar to greater heights of glory, so did Angeles City.

Clark Air Base reborn as a freeport zone. Its airport well on its way to full transformation as the country's premier international gateway.

Manufacturing abounding. Foreign investments rising. The Koreans keep on coming. Fields Avenue upgrading.

The service industry – hotels, restaurants, entertainment – rebounding. New ones, like business process outsourcing, aborning.

Shopping malls sprouting. Thousands of jobs opening.

Greater opportunity spelling prosperity. A promised land of plenty.

More than a happy ending to the Pinatubo story, this is yet a new beginning for Angeles City.

So went the capping essay in our book *Agyu Tamu: Turning Tragedy into Triumph* (2011).

Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will then be powerless to vex your mind.

–Leonardo da Vinci



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McArthur Highway, Telabastagan, City of San Fernando
Tel. No. (45) 625-0244 Cel. No. 0917-481-1416
puntoitnangluzon@yahoo.com or marketing@punto.com.ph
http://www.punto.com.ph



Napag-uusapan Lang

Felix M. Garcia

'Gob 'Delta' has done a payback'

NUNG kabalitan ya ing balen ning Baba A ngeni Lubao na ing yaus ding sabla, King lugal a'yti a pugad ning ganaka At bait ing tanyag a lider ning bansa

A mas pikabalwan king taguring 'poor boy' At ding aliwa pang ing karelang valor, E ta' atawaran ing bitbit dang honor Ampo ing makule reteng kontribusyon.

Kabilang la karen ding Garcia-Pineda A meging mapuri keti king Pampanga, King kasuywan deting alang kasimpara Linis king nanu mang puestung telanan da.

Umpisa king Inda angga karing anak A miluluk bilang Mayor, den laganas King meging opisya migsilbi lang tapat At e mimusingan gamat agyang ditak.

Meging kabalitan la keng pamaniaup E mu keti nune pati e ra sakup, Miampulayan keng grasyang ipagkalub Karing mirasan kalamidad at salut.

OYAN, mayayakit e mu keng mass media, Ing nu' anti dagul ken ing kasawpan da Ring peka Igpa at Indu ning Pampanga Pati na karing e tamu kaprobinsya.

At kusang lub deting pigsaryan ing lugal A nu' ing bantug a Bulkan na ning Taal, Abu at asypre'ng keng pali bubukal Ing minye pasakit karing taung dakal.

Nung nu' pilan pamung aldo ing milabas Ing mesabing bulkan bigla ya ping mitdas, King lugal a kusa nang pigsarian agad Gov 'Delta' a ngana, iti bilang 'payback'.

(O ablas karetang sinaup mu naman Inyang itamu ing kanita mirasan Grabeng kalamidad pasari ning bulkan Pinatubu'ng mitdas nyang 1991.

Binye na Batangas, laus lub kasawpan Anti ing kanita keti Kapampangan, Sinaup da keka'tamu ring aliwang Balen at probinsya nyang ita'ng karasan.

King kalamidad a alang kasimpara Kaplas at nu' digsu mipda ing Pampanga Keng mapa ning Luzon, nyang ita kanita Ing keti mitdas a bulkan, biktima na.

Panahun nang Lapid bilang Gobernador N'yang ing bulkan Pinatubu ing memakbung, Bista't e ta' balu ken nung ninu-ninung Sinaup - pasalamat tamu maragul.

Ing kalamidad a digpa keng Batangas A nu'ing Taal Volcano pin ing mitdas, Male tamu magkang pagsubuk yang ibat King Ginung Dios iti, nung nu'ta katatag?

At umasdan namu nung e pa merimla Ing lugud king kaparang tau at Keya, Ngening mayayakit , e na'na kalupa Ning lugud a sadyang mapali kanita.

A ngeni ala nang keliwan keng yelu Karimla ing lugud king kaparang tau, At nu'ing kapanwalan king Dios a Ginu Mabule na karing dakal kekatamu?!

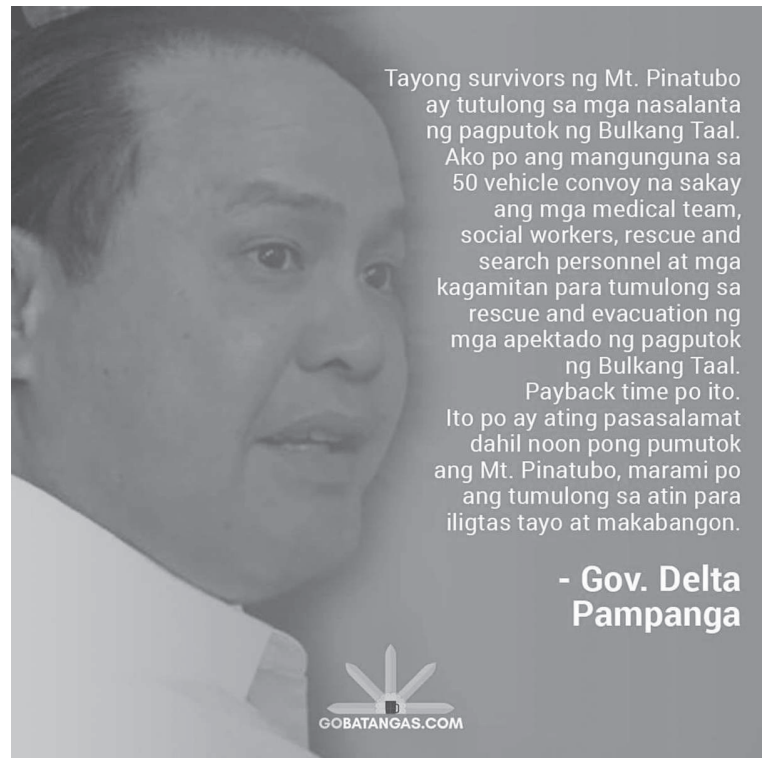
A message that imparts not just what he's doing but also the solidarity that's driving him

I DON'T know this guy. I don't know what his politics are. But this is the kind of thing that people - Batangueños, Caviteños, helpless-feeling Filipinos everywhere - need to hear at this time. That someone cares, that someone who can marshal resources is doing something. A message that imparts not just what he's doing but also the solidarity that's driving him.

"Payback time." Ang lakas. Ano ba namang makarinig tayo ng ganito mula sa pinaka-mataas na opisyal natin? Simpleng "Batangas will rise from the ashes. We WILL overcome." Corny pero, tangina, nagbibigay pag-asa.

"Especially in a time of crisis, it's not enough to lead - you have to SHOW that you're leading. That's what leaders do in a time of crisis, they provide the anchor to which people cling to steady themselves against buffeting winds and roiling waters. They become the beacon that tell the people that, yes, there is a light and yes, it's showing us the way. By all means delegate, but delegate so that you can take on the all-important tasks of reassuring your people that work is being done and showing them that you are grieving with them. In a time of crisis, delegating just so you can carry on with normal activities is simply abdication."

I wrote that nine years ago, in criticism of PNoy pushing through with a party while a huge proportion of our kababayans was being submerged



Tayong survivors ng Mt. Pinatubo ay tutulong sa mga nasalanta ng pagputok ng Bulkang Taal. Ako po ang mangunguna sa 50 vehicle convoy na sakay ang mga medical team, social workers, rescue and search personnel at mga kagamitan para tumulong sa rescue and evacuation ng mga apektado ng pagputok ng Bulkang Taal. Payback time po ito. Ito po ay ating pasasalamat dahil noon pong pumutok ang Mt. Pinatubo, marami po ang tumulong sa atin para iligtas tayo at makabangon.

- Gov. Delta Pampanga



by a storm. Who knew that it would be a refrain that would frustratingly, painfully, play over and over again in this administration, so frustrating and so painful that you just push away all thoughts of investing emotion, effort, time and finances again, because our willingness to allow our glorified bayanihan and resilience dupe us into accepting mediocrity and absurdity from this government is what gives him a free pass again and again and again and you are just so sick and tired of it?

Matanda na daw siya. Hindi daw siya makina. E tangina, hindi makina mukha mo, ke-

lan ba siya nagtrabaho? Nung Yolanda at Kidapawan, sagan ka sa photo-ops na kala mo napakalakas mo, ngayong elected ka na, pa-ika-ika ka sa TV para sayo maawa ang mga tao sa halip ng sa mga kababayan nila na pinapabayaan mo at tuluyang binabastos sa gitna ng kalamidad.

Back to the Governor. I don't know you, ser. Pero dahil sa simpleng mensahe mo, saludo ako sayo. At kung magkabalita man tungkol sayo, titimbangin ko sa kontekto ng mga salitang ito. It's the least I can do to show my appreciation.

-Jozy Acosta-Nisperos, The Silent Majority

Ing kasalesayan ning Kapampangan (The history of Pampanga)

BY FR. EDILBERTO SANTOS PART 20

WORDS THAT Reveal Secrets.

Another British author, Thomas Stamford Raffles, published in 1917 a book on pre-Western Java. In it, he gives the following important observation:

"The Javans have universally two meals in the day, one just before noon, and one between seven and eight o'clock in the evening: the former, which is the principal meal, corresponding with the European dinner, and distinguished by the term *mangan-awan*, or the day meal; the latter termed *mangan-wenge*, or evening meal. They have no regular meal corresponding with the European breakfast". (Raffles 1965: Vol. 1: 101. Fischer 1959: 27).

(Note: Raffles, whose book was described by John Bastin as "one of the classics of South-East Asian historiography," was the lieutenant-general of Indonesia from 1811 to 1815. It was during his incumbency that he gathered the materials for his two-volume work on Java. John Bastin's introduction is unpaginated).

This must have been true of pre-Spanish Pampangans, because the language contains only the words for "midday meal" (*paugtuan*) and "evening meal" (*apunan*), but not the word for "breakfast." To refer to this, the term used at

percent is *almusal*, which is a local adaptation of the Spanish *almorzar* (to break fast). (Note: The Pampangan word *abakan*, though derived from *abak* (meaning morning) is never used to mean "breakfast", but "lunch").

The absence of the native term here becomes more striking when one looks at six other Filipino tongues where the native words for all the three meals are present, as can be seen in the outline below. The seventh, Pangasinan, is like Pampangan in this regard.

	Breakfast	Midday Meal	Evening Meal
Ilokano	pammigat	pangaldaw	pangrabii
Tagalog	agahan	pananghalian	hapunan
Ilongo	pamahaw	paniaga	panihapon
Waray	pamahaw	paninudto	pangiklup
Cebuano	pamahaw	pani-udto	panihapon
Bicol	pamahaw	pangudto	panonggi
Pangasinan	(almusal)	ugtu	pandem
Pampangan	(almusal)	paugtuan	apunan

(To be continued)

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Spotlight Arci Pineda

Liza Soberano rejects the idea that she got pregnant in 2019!

LIZA SOBERANO admits she held a grudge against the radio DJ who reported that she got pregnant last year and tried to hide it by staying in the U.S.

The Kapamilya actress stayed in the US for almost eight months, due to her right index finger surgery. Liza broke her finger during the taping of her 2018 action-fantasy primetime series "Bagani".

At that time actor Enrique Gil (Liza's real life boyfriend) was in the states.

Liza mentioned that she expected speculations because of her long absence in the local scene.

"I wasn't bothered by other people's speculations. I expected it, 'Oh, they're gonna think [I'm pregnant] because I'm gone for so long,"

Liza also mentioned that she had grudges over the radio jockey with his news of her being impregnated because people believed him.

"I was more upset with the person who came up with it, like, a whole video and everything.

"They didn't even bother to ask my manager, who was here the whole time or even ask me first.

"Parang, they were putting out a blind item that they made it so obvious that they were talking about me.

"I was actually in surgery when the video came out."

Some people advised Liza to sue the radio DJ, however the actress opted not to pursue the case.

"My fans wanted me to sue him or something...

I was, like, I am not ruining someone's life just because they decided to make a silly rumor about me.

"I think it's bad enough already that he got a taste of his own medicine and everyone got mad at him."

The actress confessed that if she got pregnant she won't hide it.

"I don't think everyone who gets pregnant wants to hide it, but it really didn't happen and there was so much proof [that it wasn't true].

"And also, I want to change the perception just because I went out of the country, parang buntis agad."

"Actually, people who know me know [that] I'm a very bad liar.

"When I lie, I stutter so much and I end up nabubuking ko yung sarili ko."

Liza was supposed to do "Darna", but with what happened to her finger, she rejected the role.

□ □ □

"MIRACLE IN Cell No.7" hit the waves when it made it in the boxoffice.

Miracle in Cell No. 7 has earned P475 million in the Philippine box office so far.

This is the revelation made by the film's producer, Viva Films, through its Facebook account earlier today, January 15, 2020.

This drama film emerged as the highest grossing movie among the 8 official entries that were part of the 2019 Metro Manila Film Festival.

MMFF 2019 ran from December 25, 2019 to January 7, 2020. However, there are some entries that are still being shown in cinemas nationwide.

Aga Muhlach top-billed Miracle in Cell No. 7, which is the local version of the South Korean film with the same name.

In the Philippine adaptation, Aga played Lito, a man with a developmental disorder who is imprisoned for a heinous crime that he did not commit. Xia Vigor played the young version of his daughter, Yesha, while Bela Padilla appeared as the older version.

Through the help of his fellow inmates, Lito is reunited with his daughter inside the prison.

In its Facebook post, Viva Films wrote: "Maraming salamat po sa inyong mainit na pagsuporta sa Miracle in Cell No. 7! Kayo ang tunay na MIRACLE!

"Mapapanood niyo pa rin ang #MiracleInCellNo7 dahil palabas pa rin ito sa mga sinehan nationwide!"

For the 45th edition of the MMFF, Vice Ganda and Anne Curtis top-billed the comedy film, The Mall, The Merrier.

During the January 6 episode of It's Showtime, Vice Ganda dropped hints about the box-office of gross of this movie co-produced by Star Cinema and Viva Films.

Vice Ganda, who starred in previous top-grossers of the MMFF, told the audience: "Sa lahat ng nanood ng The Mall, The Merrier, P300 plus million thank you sa inyong lahat!"



Liza Soberano

US charity org...

FROM PAGE 1

bercrime Prevention Act of 2012 before the City Prosecutor's Office here.

The complaint stemmed from a PNA article published in its website last October 15, 2019 which allegedly discredited the honor of WMRI's philanthropic mission in the Philippines.

The PNA news story online stated that (brokers of) "an international aid group which has been allegedly dumping medical wastes and defective medical equipment into the country."

Lima was the alleged originator of information written by Pulta and published in the PNA website.

Samson complained that Lima, et al, published the article "without due regard for truth, propriety and fairness." He said the statement of Lima caused the online writing and publication of "scurrilous, injurious, defamatory and libelous article" at the PNA, allegedly with the "intention of attacking and exposing WMRI to public ridicule, contempt and hatred."

In the said article, the respondents "knowingly and maliciously ascribed and fabricated fictitious acts" and alleged that for the past 12 years, WMRI has been dumping medical wastes and defective medical equipment in the country, Samson said.

It was also stated in the said article that the last shipment made by WMRI were alleged "cancer medicines" which managed to enter the country without the necessary permit from the United States regulatory offices as to their legitimacy.

Samson belied said article published by the PNA and stated that WMRI has neither dumped medical wastes into the Philippines or to other parts of the world nor gave medicines without the necessary permit from the US regulatory offices.

Track record

He said "WMRI's track record, not only in the Philippines but in other parts of the world, will belie all of Lima and other respondents' malicious imputations against the honor of WMRI."

"As the President and Chief Executive Officer, WMRI has always acted within the scope and bounds of its aim and vision which is serving the sick and poor locally, nationally and internationally since 1953," Samson said.

Samson claimed that "such defamatory

statements published by the PNA are unsupported by any proof and clearly reveal that these were specifically crafted and maliciously engineered to cause damage to the good name and reputation of WMRI."

WMRI, for years now, had extended countless medical assistance and donated medical equipment and supplies. Some of them include those given to Bayugan Community Hospital in Agusan del Sur (40-ft container medical equipment and supplies worth \$402,690); St. Claire Hospital, Quezon Bukidnon, three 40-ft containers amounting to \$987,521; Ricardo Limso Memorial Hospital, Davao City, a 40-ft container with estimated appraisal of \$429,440; Digos Doctors Hospital, Davao Del Sur; Municipalities of La Paz and San Luis, Agusan Del Sur, three 40-ft containers and two Ford E-350 Diesel Ambulances worth \$1.3 million; Provincial Government of Camarines Sur; and PRO 11 PNP General Hospital, Davao City received three 40-ft containers worth \$1.3 million.

In recognition, WMRI had received numerous citations and commendations from various LGUs including Angeles City, Cebu City, Toledo City, Municipality of Janiway in Iloilo, Municipality of Ilogon in Benguet, and City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

The WMRFI was also given a "4-Star Rating" by Charity Navigator, a premier evaluator for charities. Purportedly with the purpose of coordinating WMRI's passion to help the country, Lima together with David Lee Zarate, Bernardito Ang, and two others organized and registered a non-stock and non-profit corporation under the name of WMR-Philippine National Business and Coordination Center Foundation Inc (WMR-PNBCCFI), and became a member of its board of trustees.

As coordinator to the Philippines, PNBCCFI acted as screening committee of the Philippine entity applicants that would become the beneficiaries of WMRI. The complaint said being a former member of the Board of Trustees, Lima is aware of the track record of WMRI's philanthropic activities. He knows earnestly and truthfully the good intention of WMRI towards the Philippines, and that Lima is cognizant of the fact that WMRI means no harm to the country, the complaint stated.

-Ashley Manabat

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