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P 10.00

Punto! Central Luzon

Volume 11
Number 20
Thu - Sat
Nov 30 - Dec 2, 2017

PANANAW NG MALAYANG PILIPINO!



TRASH. Like the ghosts of Christmas past, dilapidated lanterns are dumped along a stretch of the tail dike in the City of San Fernando. **Photo by Bong Lacson**

12 new domestic routes from Clark announced

CLARK FREEPORT – At least 12 new domestic routes from the Clark International Airport (CIA) were announced by Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) OIC Alexander Cauguiran on Friday.

"I'm supposed to announce this next week, but I opted to make the announcement today because I believe the Aqua Planet should be advertised all over the country," he said during his speech

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4 militant groups mark Bonifacio Day protesting jeepney phase out

CLARK FREEPORT – Four militant groups marked Bonifacio Day yesterday in a caravan protesting jeepney phase out, foreign trade and investments liberalization, and other issues under the Duterte administration.

Members of Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (Kilusan), Workers for People's Liberation (WPL-Mak-

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MEGAWORLD

Capital Town project to generate 250,000 jobs

By Ashley Manabat

CLARK FREEPORT – Around 250,000 direct and indirect jobs in the business process outsourcing (BPO), transport, retail, food and construction sectors among others are expected to be generated as the upcoming investment of Megaworld Corp. takes shape in Pampanga.

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ANAKPAWIS SAYS

Bill on 'endo' promise of Duterte already junked

By Ding Cervantes

CLARK FREEPORT – The House Committee on Labor and Employment has allegedly dumped a bill that would realize Pres. Duterte's election promise to end contractualization of labor.

Anakpawis Partylist Rep. Ariel Casilao said yesterday "the ongoing meetings of the Technical Working Group (TWG) under the Committee on Labor and Employment on supposedly

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Pampanga shines the brightest this holiday season

THE BIGGEST and tallest ferris wheel in the Philippines... A **Flume Ride** that mimics the experience of going down a raging river... a **Super Viking** gondola that swings up to 90 degrees... a nostalgic double- decker **Carousel**.

These are just some of the exciting attractions at the **Sky Ranch**, which opened at SM City Pampanga. Located on a 10,000 site beside the mall, it is the first amusement park in North Luzon and the newest destination for both local residents and tourists.

Developed by SM Prime

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Mayor EdSa presents State of the Children's report



CHILDREN'S CONGRESS. Mayor Edwin "EdSa" Santiago and Vice Mayor Jimmy Lazatin join the students who served as audience during the city mayor's fourth State of the Children's Report on November 28.

"WE SHOULD take into consideration our children not as the least priority but the most important of all," stressed Mayor Edwin "EdSa" Santiago in his fourth State of the Children's Report presented during the Children's Congress held Tuesday at the Mini Convention Center, Heroes Hall.

The city mayor highlighted the local government's accomplishments and initiatives towards the promotion of children's right to survival, right to development, right to protection, and the right to participation.

"Sinisiguro po natin na may mga serbisyo at mga pasilidad na magagamit ang mga bata, kaya't patuloy nating dinedevelop ang ating mga imprastraktura, ginagawang ligtas ang ating mga daan at komunidad, at sinisiguro natin na maayos at mahusay ang mga serbisyong inilalaan natin para sa kanilang developmental needs," he added.

The Local Development Plan and Investment Plan for Children was also presented. This embodies the identified issues involving children and the youth and the programs to better safeguard them.

Mayor EdSa furthered "Ang ating Local Council o LCPC ay patuloy din naman na naka - antabay sa bawat programang ating inilalaan. Hinihikayat din natin na maging mas aktibo ang ating mga Barangay Council for the Protection of Children o BCPC dahil naniniwala tayo na kailangan ng mas maigting na pagsubaybay sa ating mga kabataan sa ating grass root level."

During the program, the Most Outstanding BCPC and Most Child Friendly Barangays were also named. Barangay Juliana headed by Captain Benito "Jun" Ong, Jr. outshined 34 other villages after bagging 1st place for both awards.

The runners up for the Most Outstanding BCPC award were Brgy. Sta. Lucia (2nd place) and Brgy. Del Rosario (3rd place). Other awardees as Most Child Friendly Barangays were Del Rosario (2nd place) and Sindalan (3rd place).

Also highlight of the program is the first ever search for Child and Youth Ambassador. For the selection of winners, the 12 finalists had to deliver a short speech in front of the crowd and were also tested through question and answer portion.

"Siyam yung finalists para sa Child Ambassador tapos tatlo naman para sa Youth category. Ang pagpili sa mga finalists ay naganap nung leadership camp noong November 27 kung saan ang lahat ng mga Supreme Student Government ay nagkita-kita at sila mismo ang nag nominate ng mga gusto nilang maging ambassadors," said Assistant City Social Welfare and Development Officer Aileen Villanueva in an interview.

Mary Mikhaella Louise David of San Fernando Elementary School was named as 2017's Child Ambassadress while Emerson Manansquil of Pampanga High School was hailed as the Youth Ambassador.

"Sila yung mukha na pag-aalayan ng vision ng San Fernando at sila yung magiging tinig ng mga kapwa nila batang Fernandino. Sa kanila rin manggagaling ang ibang programa na kailangan ng mga kabataan ngayon," Villanueva added.

The Children's Congress culminates this year's celebration of Children's Month in the city. –***CSFP-CIO***



42,000 chickens culled in NE

By Armand Galang

CABIAO, Nueva Ecija - Some 42,000 chickens were reportedly culled for still undisclosed reason in a village here last Nov. 21 but local authorities have yet to issue official statements.

Reports said the culled chicken were from a certain SBC poultry farm, owned by a certain Sandra Co in Barangay Concepcion here.

Dr. Soledad Garcia, municipal veterinary officer, refused to comment on the report citing established protocol that was created in the aftermath of the bird flu outbreak in the adjacent towns of San Isidro and Jaen last September.

"Kami yung nasa pinakamababa (in the hierarchy), " Garcia said.

A geo tagging conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry and local veterinary office showed SBC was one of the 15 poultry farms in operation here. Five of which were vacant since September, the records showed.



PACTAP@15. Angeles City Treasurer and PACTAP National President Juliet Quinsaat (4th, R) hands a certificate of appreciation to Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan after his keynote message addressed to all provincial, city and municipal treasurers from all over the country, during the PACTAP National Convention held November 20-22 at Royce Hotel and Casino. Joining them in the photo are PACTAP senior officials and board members from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Photo courtesy of AC-CIO

Baguio wants to learn from Bataan town

By Ernie B. Esconde

BAGAC, Bataan -- Employees of the Assessor's Office of the local government of Baguio City on Monday visited this town to learn from the municipality's updated revision of the schedule of market values for the collection of Real Property Tax.

"Pumasyal kami rito upang makipag-bench marking sa Municipality of Bagac kung ano ang kanilang magandang practices sa assessment para ma-apply sa Baguio City," Maria Almaya, city assessor, said.

She said that they chose Bagac after learning of the awards received by the municipality for three consecutive years coming from the Department of Interior and Local Government, the latest of which was the 2017 Seal of Good Local Governance.

Nicanor Ancheta, Bagac municipal administrator, said each award included P3 million in financial incentives that the municipality can place in a project of its choice. He welcomed the Baguio City workers.

Mayor Louise Gabriel del Rosario received the citation in Malacanang. The award "symbolizes the municipality's journey towards good local governance by upholding the standards of transparency, integrity and service delvery."

"Bukod sa mga awards, nalaman namin na updated ang kanilang schedule of market values," Almaya said.

Bagac municipal assessor Perla Malabanan said that the municipality has done two revisions, one in 2013-2014 and the second in 2016-2017. "Kaya nasusunod namin ang mandato ng batas na dapat every three years ang revision ng schedule of market values," she said.

Almaya said that in the case of Baguio City, their sole revision was in 1996 yet. She said that Baguio being a chartered city, the city assessor directly submits to the sangguniang panglungsod the proposed market values.

"Walang makapasa sa SP na proposed revision, kaya namasyal kami rito para makapulot ng points on how to convince our sangguniian to pass our schedule of market values," the Baguio City assessor said smiling.

Almaya said the Baguio City Assessor's Office has a total workforce of 40 of which 21 of them were in Bataan Monday and Tuesday.

"Next week ang naiwang kalahati naman ang pupunta sa Bataan upang mag-immerse sa Assessor's Offices ng Bagac, Dinalupihan at Bataan provincial government sa Balanga City," she said.



Editorial

(Bilang pagpupugay kay Gat. Andres Bonifacio sa ika-154 taon ng kanyang kapanganakan nitong Nob. 30, itong halaw mula sa kanyang Pag-ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa na akmang-akma sa ating panahon)

Sa kuko ng mga sukaban

ALING pag-ibig pa ang hihigit kaya
Sa pagkadalisay at pagkadakila
Gaya ng pag-ibig sa Tinubuang lupa?
Aling pag-ibig pa? Wala na nga, wala…

…Saan magbubuhat ang paghihinay
sa paghihiganti't gumugol ng buhay
kung wala ring ibang kasasadlakan
kundi ang lugami sa ka-alipinan?

Kung ang pagka-baon niya't pagka-busabos
sa lusak ng daya't tunay na pag-ayop
supil ng pang-hampas tanikalang gapos
at luha na lamang ang pinaa-agos

Sa kanyang anyo'y sino ang tutunghay
na di-aakayin sa gawang magdamdam
pusong naglilipak sa pagka-sukaban
na hindi gumagalang dugo at buhay.

…Hayo na nga kayo, kayong ngang buhay
sa pag-asang lubos na kaginhawahan
at walang tinamo kundi kapaitan,
kaya nga't ibigin ang naaabang bayan.

Kayong antayan na sa kapapasakit
ng dakilang hangad sa batis ng dibdib
muling pabalungit tunay na pag-ibig
kusang ibulalas sa bayang piniit.

Kayong nalagasan ng bunga't bulaklak
kahoy niyaring buhay na nilanta't sukat
ng bala-balakit makapal na hirap
muling manariwa't sa baya'y lumiyag.

Kayong mga pusong kusang pugal
ng dagat at bagsik ng ganid na asal,
ngayon magbangon't baya'y itanghal
agawin sa kuko ng mga sukaban.

Kayong mga dukhang walang tanging lasap
kundi ang mabuhay sa dalita't hirap,
ampunin ang bayan kung nasa ay lunas
sapagkat ang ginhawa niya ay sa lahat.

Ipaghandog-handog ang buong pag-ibig
hanggang sa mga dugo'y ubusang itigis
kung sa pagtatanggol, buhay ay mailit
ito'y kapalaran at tunay na langit.

LLL Trimedia Coordinators, Inc.
Publisher

General Manager	**Atty. Gener C. Endona**
Editor	**Caesar "Bong" Lacson**
Marketing Manager	**Joanna Niña V. Cordero**
Layout	**Dondie B. Ventura**
Circulation	**Lacson Macapagal**

Business & Editorial office at Unit B Essel Commercial Center,
McArthur Highway, Telabastagan, City of San Fernando
Tel. No. (45) 625•0244 Cel. No. 0917•481•1416
puntogitnangluzon@yahoo.com or marketing@punto.com.ph
http://www.punto.com.ph

Opinion



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Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Nosibalasi

PETMALU. LODI. Werpa. Current buzzwords of millennials who have arrogated unto themselves the crafting of some argot peculiar to their generation.

Sorry to disappoint but there is nothing new in this practice of reading/speaking words in reverse. *Tombalibanta* or *baligtaran* it was called when I was growing up, with those same terms – I learned at the cusp of adulthood – applying to some sexual position best known by its representative number.

Curiosity picked, this recurrence of an old practice taken as a phenomenon by millennials drove me to look for the linguistic genre under which it is classified.

The nearest I came to is emordnilap – "a word that can be read differently in reverse – it is read one way forward and another way backwards." "Reverse pair," it's also called. As in sleep-peels, pay-yap, stressed-desserts, pans-snap. Even in the name Leon-Noel.

Concededly, the way it's done here is not in the emordilap's strictest sense, with the reversing going beyond the letters and into syllables, the form from print to phonetics. Still, the sense of the word obtains, if loosely.

Anyways, emordnilap is itself the reverse of palindrome which refers to a word or phrase, or even a sentence that reads the same forward as backward.

Palindrome is exampled in words as radar, level, racecar, madam; in the phrase "a man, a plan, a canal, Panama"; in the sentence "Able was I, I saw Elba." Got the drift?

Really now, what is novel or millennially exclusive to emordnilap hereabouts?

Why, in 19th century *Las Islas Filipinas* there was *Plaridel,* the nom de plume of the great propagandist Marcelo H. del Pilar.

As far back as my boyhood days in somnolent Sto. Tomas town, reverse pair was already widely practised. There was a lifelong bachelor better known as *Quinwazonti* than his real name of Joaquin Tizon. And an uncle – *Mironggasbatang* – from his other moniker *Roming Tanggas*.

The barrio drunkard went by the tag *Syonga Tongsiok* reversed from *Asyong Sioktong.*

Not even persons with disabilities were spared. Anyone with a cleft lip was called *ebung* from the vernacular *bunge.* And those suffering from strabismus – the cross-eyed, that is – *lengdu.* The blind? *Lagbu.* The lame? *Kulti.*

For the gullible, it was *alalum,* backwards of *mulala.*

The hydrophobic sans rabies, *dehin goli.*

Among the celluloid stars of the era were the Sky-Flakes-faced *Ciagar Nobi* (Bino Garcia), the archvillain *Topakits* (Paquito Diaz), the comedians *Tochiqui* and *Pidol,* and of course, the tough guy who would be president Erap (a reverse of *pare*).

So inured was I to names and things said in reverse that I impressed my high school literature teacher with my readily reading rightly the meaning of the title of the Samuel Butler classic, *Erewhon.*

Then came too the parental terms of endearment *ermat* and *erpat*. From whom we got our allowance for the day, the usual *etneb,* from *beynte* (20) that is *sopi* in college*,* raised from the *mosenti,* in grade school.

Hard-up economically, the family could not afford a domestic *longkatuts* being most of the time *alaws atik.*

With the sexual mores of the day, it did not take too much imagination to read the meanings of *bogli, etits, keps* and *ratbu,* to cite the least vulgar rendition of prurience.

In college, the rich boy with the flashy *tsekot* usually got the materialistic *damags* (reversed contraction of *maganda*) among the coeds. Now, perfect emordnilap at the UP-Diliman jeepney routes of *ikot-toki.*

It was at the state university that conscientization turned me into a *tibak* who, when protest demonstrations became violent, had to make *botak* from truncheon-wielding *lespu.* A word: *tibak* in this sense is reversed *aktib(ista).* Not *kabit* for mistress which is *betka.*

The Bohemian dream in my teens birthed my *pe-hips* days of *modams* – that's for hippies, and grass of the hallucinating kind, dummy.

One who did not outgrow those wild flower power days was the rocker Sampaguita who, into the late '90s, still rolled and rocked *Nosibalasi.*

Hip into his '80s, though definitely never the hippie, was the late San Fernando business patriarch and provincial board member Ceferino Laus, meriting a mention here if only for the vanity plate of his car *GNONIP,* his nickname in reverse.

Fondly remembered as contemporaries of Apung Pinong in local politics of the '90s is the Mexico toughie monikered *astig,* naturally, and the San Fernando tightwad derided publicly as *natmaku.*

Political incorrectness is to call the aesthetically challenged *ngetpa*, which ironically turned into a weapon of mass mobilization that won three terms for that now dearly lamented Apalit mayor.

And then there's *tongpats,* the single term that encompasses all graft and corruption in government, from the Bureau of Customs to the DPWH and everywhere else.

It can really be as stupid as it gets, not only in politics but in all aspects of life. Hence, the universality of *ogag.* Proved beyond doubt by that hit eponymous local television series at the onset of the early 21st century.

Perhaps, the precursor of things idiotical, rather than intellectual, that have come to those born around the new millennium. But that's another *tokwents.*

TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

Source: www.kahimyang.info

Andres Bonifacio is born

ON NOVEMBER 30, 1863, Andres Bonifacio, the Father of the Philippine Revolution and one of the founders of the Katipunan, was born in the present day Tondo, Manila to Santiago Bonifacio and Catalina de Castro.

Orphaned at the age of 14, he had to take on the task of caring for his younger brothers and sisters, being the eldest of six children. He quit schooling to look for ways to support his family.

While not fortunate to have a formal education, Andres educated himself by reading books through a lamp light at his house.

Unlike the middle class leaders who held onto the mistaken belief that Spain would hear their cries for reforms, Bonifacio knew deep in his heart that Spain would never grant the reforms demanded by the Filipino reformists.

Hence, on the night that the news of deportation of Dr. Jose Rizal to Dapitan leaked out, Bonifacio founded the Katipunan on July 7, 1892, along with Valentin Diaz, Teodoro Plata (Andres' brother-in-law), Ladislao Diwa, Diodato Arellano (brother-in-law of Marcelo H. Del Pilar) and few others in Tondo, to secure the independence and freedom of the Philippines by force. They formalized their membership in the organization by signing the Katipunan pact with their own blood.

With the discovery of the Katipunan on August 19, 1896, Bonifacio and the other Katipuneros gathered secretly at the farm of Juan A. Ramos, a son of Melchora Aquino, at Pugad Lawin, then a part of Balintawak, on August 23, 1896 and agreed to fight to the bitter end, tore their cedulas as a symbolic gesture of their defiance of Spanish rule and the start of Philippine Revolution against Spain.



Napag-uusapan Lang

Felix M. Garcia

Grabeng panlalamang

IWAN MUNA natin at pansamantalang
ibaling ang paksa sa di pulitikal
na isyu, kundi sa temang kalakalan,
na aywan kung tama ang gawa ng ilan.

Tulad halimbawa nitong ilang 'network'
ng 'internet,'(Smart, Sun, TM at Globe,)
tama bang oras na tayo ay nagpa-'load,'
may taning na araw na dapat maubos?

Kung saan ginamit natin yan o hindi,
dahil may 'expiry date,' ubos palagi
ang 'load' natin nang ni walang pasubali,
at hindi rin naman tayo makatanggi?

At ang mas grabe pang panlalamang nila
ay itong kapagka' may 'load' tayong extra
(maliban sa UNLI CALL at saka TEXT pa),
na pinaka-promo ng TM at Globe ba?

Nilalamon din nang kasabay parati
ng extrang 'load' natin na pang 'EXTEND' bale
nitong masahol pa sa gutom na buwitre
na mga may-ari sa puntong nasabi!

Hindi pa ba sila makuntento riyan
sa bilyones nilang kita araw-araw,
kaya nila nagagawang pagnakawan
ang dapat ay patas nilang pagsilbihan?

Na kahit batid na nating di parehas
ang serbisyo nila't klaseng pamalakad
ay patuloy pa rin nating niyayakap,
sanhi ng wala ng ibang mahagilap?

Sana itong isa na napabalitang
'internet provider' daw na nakatakdang
magtayo rito ng bagay na naturan
na mas mabilis at mura ang singil n'yan.

Sa lalong madaling panahon matupad
upang itong TM, Sun, Globe at ang Smart
ay di na maaring makapayagpag,
kapag nagkarun ng karibal na patas.

Di kagaya ngayong kwenta dalawa lang
ang 'internet providers' na nariiryan,
dahilan na rin sa itong Smart at Sun
ay kwenta isa lang ang serbisyong bigay;
at ang TM at Globe ay ganun din naman.

Pero katulad nga ng ating sinabi
sa dakong unahan nito ni 'yours truly,'
kapag natuloy ang plano ni Duterte,
patay ang negosyo ng mga 'yan pati.

At ang pagkamal n'yan nitong limpak-limpak
na salaping galing sa di nila patas
na panuntunan at tusong pamalakad,
tiyak liliit na pagdating ng oras

Sapagkat anumang bagay na nakamit
sa pamamagitan ng gawaing pangit,
paka-asahang ang bigay na kapalit
ay pagkabigo at parusa ng langit!

Tama't sa ngayon ay tumatabo sila
ng limpak-limpak na salapi sa tuwina,
bunsod ng diskarteng di patas talaga,
pero hanggang saan sa akala nila?

Hahantong ang kahit ano pa mang bagay
na di sa malinis na pamamaraan
nakamit, kung hindi pagdating ng araw
ay daranas sila ng kapighatian!

CLTV36 Sine Gitnang Luzon Originals (SIGLO) Year 2

CLTV36 Sine Gitnang Luzon Originals (SIGLO) culminates with the awarding of the best local filmmakers of Central Luzon on November 29, 2017, 4:00 PM at the LausGroup Event Centre, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

The short film competition, now on its 2nd year showcases and promotes the Metro Central Luzon experience, encouraging young filmmakers to explore their unique ideas and perspectives and bring their stories to life through the creative world of film making.

Young indie filmmakers and film students from all over Central Luzon submitted entries to CLTV36 which were then judged by acclaimed indie film insiders including Award-Winning Director Ms. Moira Lang (Norte Hangganan ng Kasaysayan, Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros, In My Life, Anak); Multi-Awarded Actor Mr. Allen Dizon (Best Actor at 4th Silk Road Film Festival in Dublin, Ireland, for the film Iadya Mo Kami (2015), Best New Wave Actor at the 2015 Metro Manila FilmFest, Best Actor at the FAMAS Award); and last year's winner of CLTV36 Sine Gitnang Luzon Originals (SiGLO) 1 Best Film for the Central Luzon Category Mr. Ferdinand "Bor" Ocampo (Dayang Asu, Digpa Ning Alti and Ing Guinu Mu, EJK).

A total of 16 finalists were selected vying for the Best Film, Second Best Film, Third Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Musical Score, Best Film Editing, Best Production Design and Viewers Choice Awards. All the finalists will receive a CLTV36 SiGLO Certificate of Appreciation; Viewer's Choice Awards will get two (2) roundtrip plane tickets, while The Three Best Films will receive cash prizes, roundtrip plane tickets to international and local destinations and film scholarships.

CLTV36 Sine Gitnang Luzon Originals (SiGLO) Year 2 Finalists:

1. Akalingwan ng Rosa (Rosa Forgets) Pampanga
2. Ang Lipi ni Mahuna Bulacan
3. Ang Pinakamagandang Habi ni Selya Bulacan
4. Atlung Minutu Pampanga
5. Bago ako Lumipad Zambales
6. Deng Dagis Qng Cusina Tarlac
7. Dibuho Bulacan
8. Dikap Aurora
9. Dog Food Nueva Ecija
10. Jack En Poy Bulacan
11. Kawangis Pampanga
12. Life is But a Dream Bulacan
13. May Kung Ano sa Takipsilim Manila
14. #Moms Pampanga
15. Paparo Bulacan
16. Singkwenta keka, Singkwenta Kaku Pampanga

The CLTV36 SiGLO 2 Awards will be telecast on December 2, 2017, Saturday, 6:00PM on CLTV36. Catch it on CIGNAL Channel 115, Free TV Channel 36 and 40 Cable Partners. While the worldwide audiences can tune in via CLTV36 live streaming app on android and IOS.

You may also follow us for updates about the SiGLO 2 Awards Ceremony and CLTV36 updates on:

Facebook- facebook.com/cltv36official
Twitter- twitter.com/cltv36
Website- www.cltv36.tv

De Lima gets rosary from Pope Francis

By Ding Cervantes

CLARK FREEPORT - Pope Francis has sent jailed Sen. Leila M. de Lima a rosary reportedly coursed through the papal nuncio and the chaplain of the Camp Crame jail.

In a statement sent to Punto, De Lima expressed jubilation over what she described as a "beautiful rosary" sent to her by Pope Francis.

De Lima showed the rosary to family members, friends and supporters during a Mass yesterday at the PNP Custodial Center.

The statement recalled that "in a handwritten letter De Lima sent ahead of her birthday last August, she requested Pope Francis for prayers for herself and the Filipino people, especially for the thousands of victims of alleged extrajudicial killings in the country."

"I cannot thank Pope Francis enough for his thoughtfulness. I'm deeply, deeply touched by the Pope's gesture. This gift will constantly remind me that, despite the political persecution I am experiencing right now at the hands of a vengeful President. I should keep the faith and fight tirelessly for the welfare of the Filipino people," she said in the statement. She, however, did not describe the rosary.

De Lima said that last Nov. 22, the PNP chaplain handed to her the rosary from Pope Francis who had coursed it through the papal nuncio.

She was apparently referring to Rev. Fr. Eligio Mativo who has the rank of senior superintendent in the PNP.

She said the rosary came also with a message from the Pontiff but she did not say what was in the message.

"According to the chaplain, Pope Francis was able to read my letter and assured that he is praying for me," she added.

De Lima said in her letter, she had asked the Pope to offer a prayer for her and her countrymen "who are suffering from abuses and injustices since Duterte launched his government's all-out war on drugs."

"Papa Francesco, if I may be granted one wish, I hope that you will say a prayer for me and the Filipino people. Please bless me so I can have the strength to continue the fight against the injustice that is happening not only to me, but to thousands of Filipinos who are victims of extrajudicial killing," the statement quoted De Lima as telling the Pope.

De Lima also asked for the Pope's blessing "to give her strength in relentlessly standing up against the state-led abuses," the statement also said.

"I do not know when I will regain my freedom. Only faith sustains me through this nightmare. Please include me and the Philippines in your prayers," she wrote.



Capital Town project to generate 250,000 jobs

FROM PAGE 1

Eugene Em Lozano, first vice president for sales and marketing of Megaworld Pampanga, said this would be realized with Capital Town Pampanga, described as the first integrated urban township in the north.

Located in the heart of the capital City of San Fernando, Capital Town Pampanga is envisioned to be the premiere central business district of the North, set to provide a venue to showcase Kapampangan talents.

Lozano, who spoke during Megaworld's media thanksgiving at the Park Inn Hotel by Radisson Clark here on Wednesday, recalled that it was only six months ago when the leading property developer first introduced its new project - Capital Town Pampanga.

Megaworld is confident with the project's success, he said, as the province is poised for further development with the government looking to develop a master plan for better transportation with the improvement of the Clark International Airport and creation of a high-speed train system to the province.

"We have also received an overwhelming number of inquiries from top BPO companies interested to set up operations here in this township," Lozano said.

Capital Town Pampanga is seen to embody Megaworld's signature lifestyle concept of "live-work-play and learn" in one vibrant location after another, according to the company's profile.

The Capital Town Pampanga is the21st integrated urban township in Megaworld's portfolio, "as we continue to build visions and self-sustaining communities for 28 years and counting, carrying the vision of Dr. Andrew L. Tan," Lozano said.

"This 35.6 hectare, 10-year development plan will integrate residential, office, commercial, retail, and institutional components, like we usually bring with our townships, along with other unique features such as a Rainwater Park – a catchment basin for storm water, a museum and mall to honor Pasudeco's glorious past, a Casa Emperador, and a Central Square, among other exciting things to look forward to in the township," he explained.

"This year, we started marketing the first component of the township – the Shophouse District, which are commercial lots that will highlight the local unique business concepts in one setting," he said. "Just like in the beautiful cities of Europe, it will evoke of neoclassical architecture with art deco details. There will also be places for civic purposes, such as the Events Trade Hall, an outdoor amphitheater, and other complementary features like tribute statues of Kapampangan heroes, native trees comparable to Japan's cherry blossoms, and cobblestone streets," he added.

"I am very happy to share with you that the response of the market has been overwhelmingly positive. The take-up exceeded our expectations as we also saw a lot of interest from both the local market as well as those coming from Manila, Quezon City, Makati, and more, in which we appreciate the media's support in communicating our vision out there," Lozano said further.

Land development started this year as Megaworld is now preparing to launch the other components of the township soon.

12 new domestic routes from Clark...

FROM PAGE 1

at the opening ceremony of the P2.5 billion water theme park here.

Cauguiran announced seven new destinations of Philippine Airlines (PAL) and five destinations of Philippines Air Asia (PAA).

PAL will start new routes from December 1 and 15, he said. Two in Bicol - Masbate and Catanduanes, two in Samar - Calbayog and Catarman, two in the Visayas - Bacolod and Bohol, and another in Mindanao - Cagayan De Oro.

He said PAA will have five new destinations and additional destinations starting December 16 and in the third week of January. These are Caticlan and Puerto Princesa and will also increase its Davao flights from Clark and will have new destinations in Iloilo and Tacloban, Leyte.

"Dapat malaman ng buong bansa na mayroong ganitong theme park dito (The whole country should know that there is this kind of theme park here)," Cauguiran said.

The 10-hectare Aqua Planet water theme park, which has at least 25 state-of-the-art water facilities, is touted to be one of the biggest in Asia.

The opening was a three-day event from November 23 to 25.

Clark Development Corp. (CDC) president and CEO Noel F. Manankil also expressed his felicitations to Aqua Planet.

"We congratulate BBI because Aqua Planet adds to the tourism infrastructure for Clark," he said during the tour of the facilities.

"Surely, this will be one first class attraction for Clark and it will really help our tourism and the airport," he added.

"Now there is a reason to stay in Clark and this is only the first phase," declared Dr. Irineo "Bong" Alvaro Jr., chair and CEO of BBI which owns and developed Aqua Planet, as he led a toast to the facility.

–Ashley Manabat

Bill on 'endo' promise of Duterte...

FROM PAGE 1

ending contractualization of labor in the country, has been actually abandoned to fulfill President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign promise to the Filipino workers."

"Our version of the bill, House Bill 556, totally stands to prohibit all forms of contractualization of labor as we aspire a genuine security of tenure to the Filipino workers, but the working draft of the TWG is actually proposing to institutionalize it," Casilao said in a statement.

Casilao said "the draft has retained contractualization in Article 106 of the Labor Code and only empowered the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment determination of type of work as open for legitimate job contracting."

"One difference of this bill is big businesses would be constrained to woo the labor secretary to permit their engagement with contractualization," Casilao said.

He said Article 295 on regular employment allows the practice of hiring project employees and seasonal workers and that "this is subject to abuse."

"Employers could easily declare tasks or operations within their businesses are project-based, thus, fixing the tenure of the workers," Casilao said.

He said "the private sector is sly enough to get around these provisions, and even if caught, the penalties are measly fines of P30,000 to P100,000."

The Anakpawis' version proposed an imprisonment of three months to two years, so as to discourage businesses to work-around the law."

"The draft bill is comparable to the Department Order No. 174 issued by Sec. Silvestre Bello, which only aims to shoot down fly-by-night manpower agencies and actually preserve big agencies that could keep up with the capitalization requirements," he also said.

Casilao also said "this is actually a big opportunity for the foreign monopoly to invest on their own manpower agencies as the labor supply is being scrutinized by the government, thus, to create an upward trend on the rates of job contracting."

He said that "while President Duterte is failing to keep his promise to end contractualization of labor, Congress is actually paving way for foreign investors into job contracting and abandoning the expectation of the Filipino workers to a strengthened security of tenure in their jobs."

Pampanga shines the brightest...

FROM PAGE 1

Holdings, Inc. partnership with S&T Leisure Inc. and Westech Philippines, the **Sky Ranch** brings all the thrills, all the excitement, and all the fun to kids and kids at heart with its 24 rides and two attractions.

You'll surely feel on top of the world as you witness Pampanga Eye, the tallest and biggest ferris wheel in the Philippines - at 65 meters in height and 50 meters in diameter - transforms into the Biggest Lantern of Hope on December 1. An impressive 10-minute grand pyro musical show dances along the nostalgic Christmas songs with spectacular on-ground and aerial fireworks display on the ferris wheel that will surely awe all guests of all ages.

The **Loop Roller Coaster**, on the other hand, is great for thrill seekers as it completes a 360 circle at the top of the loop, completely inverting riders. Left to right swerving, sudden speed bursts, and camel backs make this a ride to remember. Another roller coaster, the **Field Runner**, will make your heart beat fast and bring on an adrenaline rush to your system.

Capture the excitement of a water ride down a raging river with the **Flume Ride**. Cruising over 5 minutes of winding waters, it ends with passengers dropping from a height of 9.5 meters into a wet and wild water track.

More thrills? The **Drop Tower** slowly lifts passengers to forty feet high before releasing in a free fall . . . the **Space Shuttle** that swivels with three cycles going to the right, and three cycles going to the left . . . the **Super Viking**, an open seated gondola that swings up to 90 degrees back and forth.

There are also nostalgic rides like the **Double Decker Carousel**, the classic favorite ride of all time, where kids can ride on magical horses. Designed by Peter Petz Productions of Germany, it transports one back to 20th century world fairs.

Visitors of all ages can also have fun with games – booths for extreme basketball, hang man, can smash, ring toss, lift-a-bottle, rope-a-duck and lobster pot where park guests can bring home stuffed toys and other prizes.

Enjoy a spectacular lights and sounds show of the ferris wheel every night starting December 2 at 7PM and 8PM. Catch *Sunis ning Pasko* chorale every Saturday with your favorite Sky Ranch mascots every weekend of December.

Sky Ranch Pampanga is open to the public from 12NN to 12 midnight on weekends and from 3PM to 12 midnight on weekdays. It is one of the many exciting attractions for the whole family at SM City Pampanga.

–SMPP

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bataan
MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of RA Act No. 10172, a NOTICE is hereby served to the public that **EDWIN M. PESQUIZA** has filed with this Office a Petition for Correction of Date of Birth from "**JANUARY 14, 1968"** to **"JANUARY 4, 1968"** in the Birth Certificate of **EDWIN PISKISA** who was born on **JANUARY 4, 1968** at **Orani, Bataan** and whose parents are **AGAPITO PESQUIZA** and **DOROTEA MOLINAR.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than December 14, 2017.

VIRGILIO S. DIONISIO
Municipal Civil Registrar

PUNTO! Central Luzon: November 30 & December 7, 2017

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **CORONA FELICIANO SIMBUL** who died intestate on November 20, 2017 in Muntinlupa City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement of his estate, more particularly described as four (4) parcels of land, to wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 045-2014003939
Registry of Deeds Angeles City

A parcel of land (Lot 10, Block 7 of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-66539 (Sheet 1), being a portion of Lot 702-B, described on plan (LRC) Psd-48796, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Record No. 124), situated in Barrio of Pampang, City of Angeles, Island of Luzon;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 045-2014003938
Registry of Deeds Angeles City

A parcel of land (Lot 653-A-2-B-2, of the subd. plan Psd-03-135345, being a portion of Lot 653-A-2-B (LRC) Psd-191502, LRC Rec. No.), situated in Bo. of San Nicolas, Mun. of Magalang, Prov. of Pamp.;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 045-2014003940
Registry of Deeds Angeles City

A parcel of land (Lot 653-A-2-E, of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-191502, being a portion of Lot 653-A-2 (LRC) Psd-155429, LRC Cad. Rec. No. 128), situated in Bo. of San Nicolas, Mun. of Magalang, Prov. of Pamp.;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 125983-R
Registry of Deeds for the Province of Pampanga

A parcel of land (Lot 653-A-2-D, of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-191502, being a portion of Lot 653-A-2 (LRC) Psd-155429, LRC Cad. Rec. No. 128), situated in Bo. of San Nicolas, Mun. of Magalang, Prov. of Pamp.;

before Notary Public Almario D. Marimla as per Doc No. 4973, Page No. 55, Book No. LI, Series of 2017.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 27, December 4 & 11, 2017

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heir of **MA. LOURDES PARAS GUINTO** who died intestate on May 27, 2017 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement of her estate, more particularly described as one (1) Bank Account and two (2) parcels of land, to wit:

Land Bank Account 01977010841 (Ctrl. No. 197-2017-11-03089) amounting to Php 80,999.15 at Land Bank Dau Branch LEFA Bldg., Mac Arthur Highway, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 677304-R
Lot 11, Blk. 51 of the cons-subd. plan Pcs-03-015720 being aportion of Lots 3008-P-4, 3008-P-5, 3008-P-7, Psd-141126; 3008-P-6-H, Psd-030159018, LRC Rec. No. 151, situated in the Bo. of Calibutbut, Mun. of Bacolor, Prov. of Pampanga, Island of Luzon;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 600541-R
Lot 3, Blk. 5 of the cons-subd. plan Pcs-03-001039 being aportion of cons Lots 198-A+ to 198-A-9-D (LRC) Psd-289731, L.R.C. Rec. No. , situated in the Bo. of Mabiga, Mun. of Mabalacat, Prov. of Pampanga, Island of Luzon;

before Notary Public Kenneth Yambao as per Doc No. 1188, Page No. 148, Book No. 128, Series of 2017.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 23, 30 & December 7, 2017

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **MONICA MANALO AGUSTIN** who died intestate on March 10, 2017 in the Republic of Austria executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement of her estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 17, Blk. 10 of the subd. plan Psd-03-025454, being a portion of parcel 22, lot 19, Psu-2908, LRC Rec. No.) situated in the Bo. of Pulung Bulu, Municipality of Angeles City and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 399600-R, before Notary Public Paolo M. Benitez as per Doc No. 395, Page No. 42, Book No. II, Series of 2017.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 23, 30 & December 7, 2017



Spotlight

Arci Pineda

Francine Prieto marries husband Frank Shotkoski for the 2nd time!

FOR THE second time former sexy star Francine Prieto tied the knots with husband Frank Shotkoski in Aeroskobing, Aero Island, Demark, last November 17. Francine first married her American husband in Capri, Italy, on September 21, 2016.

The 35-year-old actress said that Aero Island was a perfect wedding destination because it is the same place where her late biological father, Jarl Jensen, was buried. Jarl is her Norwegian father whom she never had the chance to meet since birth.

Francine explained, "Nung pinaplano na namin Scandinavian wedding ko at nakapili na kami ng lugar, sa isang island sa Denmark called Ærø, nalaman ko lang last October 2017 through my sister na dun din sa island na yun nakalibing ang father namin nang tinanong ko siya."

"Kasi, ang alam ko lang, sa Denmark siya namatay. Tadhana talaga na dun kami magpakasal, kasi nandun din pala si biodad."

Francine originally wanted a wedding overlooking the famous view of Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, in Norway. But she and Frank chose Denmark because it is hard to accomplish civil wedding requirements in Norway.

Then, after their wedding, they went to Norway to meet the actress' paternal relatives. Denmark and Norway are both part of the Scandinavian countries in Northern Europe.

Francine added, "Nag-research ako at nalaman ko, sa Denmark mas madali for foreigners magpakasal at malapit din sa family ko sa Norway. Kaya pumunta cousin ko with her husband to attend our wedding."

Francine is referring to her Norwegian cousin, Hege Norland.

Francine also said that taking a trip to Scandinavia felt like a homecoming, because it was the first time that she met her relatives from her father's side of the family, including her half-sister Vivian Jensen. It was in November 19 when Francine posted a photo of her and Vivian taken at the cemetery where their dad and grandparents were buried. Francine also posted photos of her catching up with the rest of her Norwegian relatives.

"Masayang-masaya lang ako na finally nabuo na yung missing piece sa life ko, to get to know my Norwegian roots. I'm half Norwegian, Chinese-Filipino. Tagal ko rin nag-attempt pumunta Norway, lalo na nang malaman ko about my family, especially my sister.

"Salamat sa Startalk nang ma-feature nila ako for their father's day episode. Sila talaga nag-research lahat kaya nalaman ko na wala na pala biological father ko and I have a sister.

"Nakausap ko rin second wife ng father ko na buhay pa siya noon (she died also in 2010, same year ng mom ko). Tapos, through social media kaya ako naging connected sa family."

Note that Francine was raised by her biological mother Amelia Falcon and stepfather Charles Falcon back here in the Philippines.

In her Facebook post, dated June 16, 2013, the actress related that she was 10 years old when she first discovered that her stepfather is not her biological dad.

Francine also said that it took another 10 years before her stepfather finally admitted the truth about her parentage.

But even then, Francine made it clear that she had no hang-ups about the circumstances behind her parentage.

It took a while, but she's grateful to finally meet her father's family.

"In God's time talaga. God is good. Tiwala lang talaga. Ngayong halos lahat ng part ng buhay ko umaayos, lubos talaga ang kaligayahan ko na ma-meet ang family ko, especially my sister.

"I'm very thankful to have a supportive husband."

❑ ❑ ❑

THE Himig Handog award of P1 million pesos went to the grand prize winner, which was accepted by composer Libertine Amistoso and Moira.

Both Libertine and Moira were teary-eyed upon receiving their award.

"Titibo-Tibo," interpreted by Moira Dela Torre, emerged as the Best Song of Himig Handog 2017.

The grand finals was held last November 26, at ABS-CBN's noontime musical variety program ASAP.

Meanwhile, the song "Tayo Na Lang Kasi" by Jason Dy and Kyla did not receive any place in the Top 5 songs, but they won three special awards.

In this year's edition, 10 songs were chosen to compete as the Best Song.

The competing entries were (in order of ASAP Performance): Inigo Pascual ft. Aikee for "Extensyon" composed by Michael "Aikee" Aplacador; Migz Haleco for "Bes" by Eric De Leon, Morissette Amon for "Naririnig Mo Ba?" by LJ Manzano and Joan Da; Kaye Cal for "The Labo Song" by Karl Gumano and Teddy Katigbak, and Jake Zyrus for "Bagyo" by Agat Morallos.

Completing the list of interpreters are Unit 406 for "Tanghaling Tapat" by Gabriel Tagadtad; Jason Dy and Kyla for "Tayo Na Lang Kasi" by Soc Villanueva; Moira Dela Torre for "Titibo-Tibo" by Libertine Amistoso; Janella Salvador for "Wow Na Feelings" by Karlo Zabala, and Jona for "Sampu" by Raizo Chabeldin and Biv De Vera.

Here are the winners of Himig Handog 2017: Best Song - Titibo-Tibo; Second Best Song - Sampu; Third Best Song - Extensyon; Fourth Best Song - Wow Na Feelings; Fifth Best Song - Tanghaling Tapat.

Special Awards: MYX Choice for Best Music Video - Tayo Na Lang Kasi, music video by MINT College; MOR 101.9's Choice - Tayo Na Lang Kasi; Star Music's Listener's Choice - The Labo Song; TFC's Global Choice for Favorite Song - Wow Na Feelings; One Music PH's Choice for Favorite Interpreter - Kyla and Jason Dy for "Tayo Na Lang Kasi."



Francine Prieto

Newshen loses wallet to robbers in Dau

By Ashley Manabat

MABALACAT CITY – A local reporter of the weekly Central Luzon Businessweek, suffered minor injuries after losing her balance when robbers snatched her wallet Thursday night last week.

Minerva Z. Arceo, 40, lost a bunch of identification cards and her driver's license when her wallet, tucked under her armpit, was suddenly grabbed from behind by robbers on board a motorcycle while she was crossing the street in Barangay Dau here.

Arceo fell to the ground after losing her balance injuring her left elbow.

Arceo said she was crossing the street along the NLEx road connection to the MacArthur Highway in front of the Shell gasoline station near the Mabalacat Bus Terminal here at around 9 p.m. when the back rider of a pink motorcycle, which passed her from behind, grabbed her wallet causing her to fall on the ground.

She said the robbers fled towards the direction of Barangay Duquit in the west.

Sources said the area in the vicinity of the Mabalacat Bus Terminal has become notorious as petty thieves continue to thrive in the said locality. Not a few have been victimized by thieves, sources said.

The area is also the favorite spot of mendicants which include children.

Police investigator, PO1 Jude Michael C. Gonzales, said they are now conducting follow up operations to locate the suspects who remain at large.

4 militant groups...

From page 1

abayan), Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan para sa Kalayaan (Kaisa Ka) and Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Laban sa Phase Out (STOP) converged in the capital city of San Fernando and motored to this freeport for a protest rally, before moving to Angeles City's Plaza Miranda to continue with their protest action.

In a statement, Kilusan said that "with the impending relaxation of restrictions in the Foreign Investment Negative List (FINL), new investment areas are made available for foreigners like direct hiring of workers, entry of foreigners in certain professions like education, securing construction and repair contracts for local infrastructure projects, businesses in public service, culture, production and milling of agricultural products except rice and corn and retail trade."

"We are faced with new threats to sovereignty as Duterte pushes for further opening the economy to foreign investments, defaulting on the government's role to ensure the most basic of services," said Kilusan secretary general Virgie Suarez.

On the other hand, WPL-Makabayan said that "while the government may have signed the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of migrant workers in the recent ASEAN meeting, it has yet to address the dismal state of wages and workers' welfare in the country."

"Now with the passage of the Tax Reform and Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Bill in Senate, push for PUV phase out and other neoliberal policies, we anticipate that the tax hikes will burden the workers, especially the poor," WPL-Makabayan chairperson Pete Pinlac said.

For its part, STOP warned that "the plan to 'modernize' public utility vehicles will only result in massive economic repercussion of millions as those relying on transportation sector are compelled to junk their old units in place of new ones."

"Anticipating opposition to his neoliberal agenda, Duterte will be quick to quell any sign of dissent or criticism to his bid for unfettered exercise of power, beyond that which is accorded to him by the Constitution—whether through so-called 'rebolusyong Duterte' or through bastardizing the charter, " Suarez said.

"Let us not let Duterte do a Marcos on us Filipinos, this change will only benefit him and his cohorts and imperil the welfare of the rest of us," Suarez also said.

–Ding Cervantes

DOE's 13th Fuel Eco Run draws 55 vehicles

By Ashley Manabat

CLARK FREEPORT – To promote better awareness of fuel-efficient technology in vehicles, the Department of Energy (DOE) and Petron Corp., conducted the 13th DOE Fuel Economy Run on November 20-21 here.

DOE Undersecretary Wimpy Fuentebella said "through this event, we will be able to determine fuel consumption rating in kilometers per liter of different brand-new vehicles available in the market in accordance with actual highway driving conditions."

Fuentebella spoke in behalf of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi during the opening program.

A total of 55 vehicles took part in the Fuel Economy Run of the Energy Utilization Management Bureau of the DOE.

Fuentebella also said the activity primarily aims to raise awareness on the importance of fuel-efficiency in automobiles and its positive impact to consumers and the environment.

Participating vehicles consisted of sedans, service utility vehicles, multi-purpose vehicles, and pick-ups with 26 vehicles running on diesel and another 26 running on gasoline.

These included Volkswagen, Hyundai, Volvo, Ssangyong, Mini, Peugeot, Honda, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Ford, Foton, Toyota, BAIC, Nissan, Mahindra, Suzuki, Honda, Mazda, Subaru, KIA, and Chevrolet cars.

Three guest entries also participated in this year's run which included two BMW sedans and one Toyota hybrid sedan.

The event was sponsored by Petron and covered a distance of 216.60 kilometers from the Petron Service Station inside this freeport to Binalonan, Pangasinan Toll Plaza via the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway.

The 13th Fuel Eco Run is part of the DOE E-Power Mo campaign, which guides consumers' decision-making by emphasizing energy-efficient technology as a main factor in purchasing vehicles.



PALIBUT' CARE. Kids at the Children's Home of Eucharistic Love and Kindness, City of San Fernando receive early Christmas cheers from the Palibut Family, who sponsored a party filled with fun parlor games, food and gifts of basic goods and cash. **Contributed photo**

PAWIKAN FESTIVAL

110 marine turtle hatchlings released

By Ernie B. Esconde

MORONG, Bataan – A total of 110 hatchlings of marine turtles were released out into the West Philippines Sea during the Pawikan Festival here Saturday.

Records showed that more than 68,000 one-day old baby turtles have been released since 1999 when the Pawikan Conservation Center opened in Morong.

"The ceremonial release signifies the continuing conservation programs of the local government units and civil society organizations to protect nature and its fauna," Jose Marie Garcia of the Philippine Information Agency in Bataan said.

Senator Cynthia Villar, guest of honor and speaker, lauded Bataan for its uninterrupted environmental thrusts, leading to the increase in number of the marine turtles or pawikan.

Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, joined Bataan Gov. Albert Garcia, provincial tourism council foundation chair Vicky Garcia, and some mayors in the release of the hatchlings.

The governor emphasized that although he wanted to achieve quality growth for the province it should, however, be not at the expense of the environment.

Organizers estimated that more than 5,000 people from various sectors trooped to the mountain town for the festival.

Saturday's activities included walk for a cause, Zumba exercise, festival dance competition, trade fair, environmental forum, beach concert and contests on sand sculpture, photography and paddle painting.



CCA students triumph in ALCU Regional Skills Competition

ANGELES CITY – The students of the City College of Angeles (CCA) have once again bagged numerous awards after competing in the recently concluded 5thAssociation of Local Colleges and Universities Region III (ALCU-Region III) Skills Competition held on November 24, at Gordon College in Olongapo City.

With the theme "Internationalization of ALCU RIII through skills based initiatives", the regional event aims to strengthen ties among government-owned educational institutions in the region while showcasing and inspiring world-class excellence in skills development.

The delegation comprising Aaron Mercado, Froilan Lugue and Lemuel Flores emerged as champions in the Hackathon Category. The same fete was awarded to Andy Anunciacion who also won champion in the Computer Assembly and Disassembly category.

On the other hand, Cynreck Susmeña also emerged as the champion for the On-The-Spot Flower Arrangement event, while Ely Jay Delos Santos bagged the 1st Runner Up for the Tour Guiding Category.

The CCA also garnered a 3rd place finish for the On-The-Spot Table Skirting (Ariel Alvarado and Nerry De Leon), Fruit Flambe Freestyle (Jolas Sibug), and Audio-Visual Presentation (Arturo Bambao, John Carlo Lacandola, and Jeremiah Cabigtig) categories.

CCA President Dr. Richard Daenos said that it is important to engage the students in different academic and skills activities for "these are platforms to instill the values of creativity, industry and perseverance to the youth, and introduce and experience for themselves a variety of career options which they can pursue in the near future."

For his part, Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan expressed his elation over the consistent winning streak of the students of the city-owned college in various academic and skills competition this year.

"The awards and recognitions that our students at CCA have been constantly reaping are a reminder of how the local government is successful at making the city college an institution for higher learning," said Mayor Pamintuan.

"Our students' consistent achievements are paving CCA's marks as an institution dedicated to holistic excellence. We have been a powerhouse of strong contenders in the region and we owe all of these to the administration and the teaching force of our city college," Pamintuan added.

Aside from CCA, participating schools for this year's skills competition included Mabalacat City College, Norzagaray College, Bulacan Polytechnic College, Pambayang Dalubhasahan ng Marilao, Polytechnic College of Botolan and Gordon College which is also the host school of the said regional meet.

ALCU-Region III is the body governing all state colleges and universities in Central Luzon. The organization aims to improve the quality of instruction, research and extension of its member schools, and to provide quality tertiary education, that will be cascaded to the benefit of underprivileged but deserving and talented youth.

–Angeles CIO

Nat'l confab in NE rains accolades on 'Leonora'

By Anselmo Roque

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ - She was 30 kilometers away, under a shade, unspeaking and unaware of the explosion of accolades by at least 500 farmers and other stakeholders gathered here Monday.

But through photos and written description about her here, the audience got to regard her, who answers by the name "Leonora," very highly.

She is a dairy buffalo of Brazilian breed, with milk yields of up to 18 liters a day or a total of 3,364.5 liters in a ten-month lactation period, and provided an income of P149,670 to her owner Rogelio Marquez, 44, of San Andres 1, Quezon, Nueva Ecija.

Leonora, the name (meaning light in many languages) Marquez gave her in appreciation of her "beauty" and "domesticity," gave birth to a female calf on November 30, 2016 in her fourth calving. She knew that she is Leonora as she readily gives out an acknowledging response, like raising her head, whenever her name is called while in the company of three others that Marquez tends.

Even in her dry months of lactation, her milk yield never went down to 10 liters daily.

The ex-farm price of carabao's milk in Marquez' area is P45 per liter. Elsewhere, though, it goes up to P60 to P80 per liter in raw form.

Aside from her milk yield, Leonora was judged for her body conformation (symmetry, size and shape) which is ideal for a milking carabao.

Marquez received from DA assistant secretary Enrico Garzon Jr. and Dr. Arnel del Barrio, executive director of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), the "Gintong Kalabaw Cup" and a cash award.

He is set, with his cash award, to improve further his carabao management practices, to retain in temporary keeping the trophy.



"Leonora's" body conformation exudes qualities that make her yield up to 18 liters of milk a day. Her total yield of 3,364 liters (sold for P149,670) for a ten-moth lactation period, earned for her the "Gintong Kalabaw" award. **Photo by Elmo Roque**



Del Barrio said the giving of award for the outstanding carabao, alongside with the other awards for carabao dairying, was to highlight the achievements in carabao development during the 3rd National Carabao Conference here (Nov. 27-28). The conference provided avenues for exchanges of ideas, information, practices and technologies in further improving the carabao development program, particularly the carabao-based industry, in the country.

Awardees

The other awardees were Henry Orbito of Calinog, Iloilo as "Outstanding Dairy Buffalo Farmer" (smallhold category); Victoriano Dumale of Licaong, Science City of Muñoz, "Outstanding Buffalo Farmer" (family module); Samuel Mercader of San Jose City in the semi-commercial category; and Emily Velasco of Villa Joson, San Jose City as "Modelong Juana sa Kalabawan" (model woman in carabao dairying). Patrick Pascual of Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija was awarded the "Modelong Kabataan sa Kalabawan" honors while the Eastern Multi-Purpose Cooperative of San Jose City was bestowed the "best dairy cooperative" title.

The Eastern Multi-Purpose Cooperative has 432 dairy carabaos in the hands of 60 members and had combined milk harvest of 145,099.65 liters in 91 lactating carabaos in one year (P7,254,982.50 at P50 per liter). It also runs its own milk processing plant and marketing outlet.

Dumale and his family earned P70,000 a month from their five dairy carabaos while Orbino grossed P354,314.80 from the milk yield of his two carabaos. Mercader, who started raising a dairy carabao in 2000, has 32 carabaos of which 14 are mature females, one a senior bull, four are heifer, and nine are calves, earned more than enough to finance the education of four daughters, two of whom had graduated from their respective collegiate courses, acquired agricultural lands, house and lot, vehicles, farm equipment, and appliances.

KELATO GELATO

Ice cream with alcoholic twist

By Anselmo Roque



TALAVERA, Nueva Ecija – Pistachio of Liberty. Son of a Peach. Tikman Mojito. Nougat No Glory. They are ice cream flavors, with carabao's milk as one of the ingredients, and with a delightful twist.

The first two names are sober lines (or non-alcoholic), the 3rd is of alcoholic line, and the 4th with no-sugar-added line.

They are products produced by Raquel Fausto, 30, under the brand name "Kelato Gelato". The names of the products and the brand are apparently meant to tickle the mind, particularly of the young generation or of people looking for something new.

She finished an advertising arts course at the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila and is currently the advertising and promotions manager of the "DVF Dairy Farm, Inc." here which produces liquid and non-liquid carabao's milk products. She is also a filmmaker and also describes herself as an entrepreneur.

Raquel's foray into a business capitalizing on carabao's milk is no accident. She is the youngest among three children of former investment banker and pioneer-main intervener of local government bond floatation Danilo V. Fausto who ventured into carabao dairying here in 1990.

The elder Fausto, although a neophyte then in carabao raising, started with buying and tending 10 Murrah buffaloes (dairy-type) on his farm here. He became a "laughing stock" of sorts by the farmers especially when his animals became emaciated due to lack of fresh feed grass and improper tending by his farm hands.

Seeking technical advice from the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in the Science City of Muñoz, he mastered the right way to make his carabaos healthy and productive in terms of milk production.

He eventually put up the "DVF Gatas ng Kalabaw" enterprise which produces and sells processed liquid and non-liquid milk products. The enterprise sources out its milk supply, outside of his dairy farm, from individual farmers in nearby areas and from members of the Talavera Dairy Cooperative which he founded in 1992.

Raquel revealed that it took some years for her to plan the putting up of a sister dairy business of her father's firm.

Twist

"After visiting a big 'Expo' event, and after seeing variants of ice creams, I decided to put up my own venture," she said. "But it is making ice cream with a twist that I opted to do," she hastily added.

The "twist" was putting emphasis to producing products with less cream but more of carabao's milk, less air during the churning process, and some with no sugar added in it. In short, a "soft ice cream" or "gelato" (Italian word for the American ice cream with soft and smooth texture).

"I planned it to be for badass newcomers or the discriminating customers," she said. "Since I am into a business using largely carabao's milk for different products, I decided to use more of this (milk) than the cream usually used for the common ice cream," she added.

She concentrated on three flavor lines. The sober (non-alcoholic), alcoholic, and no-sugar-added lines.

For a further "twist" she gave them interesting, catchy names. Hazelnut, Wag Ka Macholulet, Alam Vanilla and Nougat No Glory for the sober line and White Russian, Tikman Mojito and Piña Colada for the alcoholic line.

She gave such names as Pistachio of Liberty and Son of a Peach for no-sugar-added line.

Next was giving a brand name for her products.

"My nickname is Kel and I usually label my things with it – like 'kelFiles' in the computer and 'VehiKel' for the car I am using. I thought of using 'Kelato' or 'killer gelato,' so 'Kelato Gelato' was born," Raquel said.

Home-based

As she is still taking time with the growth of her business, she said she is "a one-woman show". She said it is still a home-based enterprise in their place of business in Cubao, Quezon City but she is planning to open a small shop soon near the DVF Farm business office in Metro Manila.

Occasionally, she said, she employs seasonal help when doing business in week-end bazaars.

She sells her products along with the DVF Gatas ng Kalabaw products in various outlets, especially in Metro Manila. She is also open for "bookings" for different events at parties.

Her sober line is sold at P120 per shot and P430 per tub. The alcoholic line is priced at P180 per shot and P480 per tub while the no-sugar-added line at P150 per shot and P450 per tub.

"The sober line is intended for those who like the classical flavor of ice cream," Raquel said. "For those who prefer getting certain kind of high while partaking their dessert, the alcoholic line is offered. The other one is for those who like their ice cream with no sweets added," she added.

Raquel gets her supply of the other ingredients for her products from her local Italian suppliers. She processes her products in an enclosed environment condition using an ice cream-maker.

"By using carabao's milk, I don't have to put anymore additives to increase my gelato's creaminess or flavor. With the fresh milk coming from my father's dairy farm, I am assured that its nutrients, quality, and freshness are intact," Raquel said.

