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PANANAW NG MALAYANG PILIPINO!

MIDORI HOTEL

Clark firm cuts cost for P2-B project by illegal quarrying

By Ashley Manabat

CLARK FREEPORT – A multi-billion company here is levelling a hill in order to cut cost for the construction of its so called "green hotel."

Midori Hotel, a P2-billion, six-storey, 120-room hotel which Clark Development Corp. (CDC) President-CEO Arthur Tugade once said is "close to the environment because midori means green in Japanese," is reportedly cutting cost by illegally obtaining its soil materials from a nearby mound at the Clark special economic zone.

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DEVASTATION. An earth mound reportedly quarried for filling materials for the Midori Hotel. Contributed photo

SoKor's most wanted collared in Angeles City

CLARK FREEPORT – The Bureau of Immigration (BI) here has confirmed the arrest of South Korea's most wanted criminal in Angeles City.

The suspect was identified as Cho Yang-eun, 62. He was arrested in his alleged hideout in Angeles yesterday by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by the Seoul Central District Court.

Cho is reportedly the head of the Korean mafia involved in high-profile crimes like fraud, extortion as well as threat and intimidation against his compatriots in the Philippines.

Cho's passport was cancelled by the South Korean government on March 30, 2012.

The Korea Times describe Cho as one of the leaders of the two big-

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Clark Green City displacing 2,000 Aeta families in Capas

By Ding Cervantes

CLARK FREEPORT - Some 2,000 Aeta families in 30 sitios and barangays in Capas, Tarlac are reportedly being pressured by the military into abandoning their ancestral lands to give way to government plans to build the so-called Clark Green City project that would allegedly cover 36,000 hectares in their area.

Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luson (AMGL) Chair Joseph Canlas said military men have allegedly been telling the Aetas to leave, telling them that the lands they live on and till are part of military reservation.

"This is part of plans being laid out by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) for the Clark Green City which we expect to lead to privatization and widespread land use conversion and selling of lands to foreign and local investors. This would be all against the rights of the Aetas and farmers want-

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The country's first Driftwood Art Exhibit at SM City Baliwag features 77 unique creations including Ramil Castillo's *The Leopard* (right photo).

Bonsai artisans stage 1st Driftwood Art Creations at SM City Baliwag

GIVING BIRTH to an unconventional form of wood art, members of the Philippine Bonsai Society Inc. (PBSI) opened the country's First Driftwood Art Exhibit at the mall's event center on November 22.

Driftwoods are usually seen awash in seacoasts in an aftermath of a storm, gust of wind or flooding. Considered as a product of a calamity, these dead tree parts gave artist, Ramil Castillo a chance to showcase the beauty of nature's sculptures.

The exhibit features over 77 amazing driftwood art pieces in different forms and sizes. Some of the impressive figures on display are the great blue heron, a phoenix rising, a bald eagle, a marine iguana and a leopard.

Although these pieces were handpicked, waxed and preserved by the members of PBSI, the artists acknowledged nature's powerful yet delicate artistry which formed these one-of-a-kind creations.

The event also joined together almost a hundred enthusiasts for the Bonsai and Suiseki Open Competition. A free Bonsai and Suiseki Lecture and Demonstration by PBSI's Nardz Gatuz was likewise conducted for interested mall goers.

Present to grace the exhibit opening were renowned Filipino bonsai artist, Fely Gupit, driftwood artist, Ramil Castillo and Provincial Tourism Officer, Katrina Bernardo together with SM City Baliwag's Ardee Tolentino.

BFAR notes spike in toxicity of Bataan shellfish, ban still on

By Ding Cervantes

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) reiterated yesterday its warning against the harvesting and eating of shellfish from Bataan amid yet another laboratory study indicating red tide levels off Bataan shores have remained toxic.

BFAR said latest laboratory results on shellfish samples taken from the waters of Mariveles, Limay, Orion, Pilar, Abucay, Samal , Orani and Balanga indicated high levels of red tide migro-organisms. The latest red tide ban in these areas was raised in the first week of this month.

It stressed that the ban also includes transporting of shellfish from the affected areas.

BFAR Central Luzon information officer Lanie Lamyong said the samples were found way above the tolerable limit of 60 milligrams Saxo-Toxin (STx) per 100 mg. of shellfish meat. Latest studies indicated an average of 265 mg STx in the shellfish meat.

Lamyong said, however, that fish, squid, shrimp and crabs from the affected areas are safe for human consumption for as long as they are fresh and thoroughly washed before cooking. She also advised the removal and cleaning of innards of fishes before cooking.

Green mussels or tahong, lukan, talaba, and other shellfish are plentiful in the plagued areas.



School kids in turtle costumes liven up festivities.

Photo courtesy of Bataan.gov.ph

All systems go for Pawikan fest

By Ernie B. Esconde

BALANGA CITY- It is all systems go for this year's nationally-awarded Pawikan Festival in Morong, Bataan, the provincial tourism office announced Monday.

The festival that implants caring for marine turtles was first runner-up in the country in Best Tourism Practices awarded by the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP) and the Department of Tourism.

It was also declared second place in the provincial level all over the country by the Diliman Preparatory School in Quezon City.

Both recognitions were given during the 14th ATOP national awards in Legaspi City last October 4, 2013.

Architect Techie Banzon, Bataan tourism head, said they have finalized the schedule for the two-day event on November 30 and December 1, 2013 at the Pawikan Conservation Center in Nagbalayong, seaside village in Morong.

"May go-signal na ito ni Gov. Albert Garcia at ng kanyang ina na si Mrs. Vicky Garcia, Bataan Tourism Council Foundation chair, in coordination with the Morong municipal government headed by Mayor Jorge Estanislao," the architect said.

The festival starts with a fun run at 5:30 in the morning of November 30 in Nagbalayong, followed by the opening ceremony at the Pawikan center.

The much-awaited event, releasing of hatchlings at the shore adjacent to the West Philippines Sea, comes in next.

Various activities were lined-up on the first day such as opening of the trade fair and different contests like kite-flying, sand sculpture, poster-making, paddle painting, beach volleyball and cook fest, among some others.

A "capture those moment" photo contest follows with three winners getting P1,500; P1,000 and P700, respectively.

A cultural show and night patrol in chance encounter with marine turtles on the beach will surely tickle the imagination of visitors.

The second day, a Sunday, kicks off with a walk for a cause at 5 a.m. from Nagpaho Crossing to the Pawikan center.

After a program, pawikan hatchlings will again be released to the West Philippines Sea, formerly the South China Sea.

Street dancing competition, participated by 11 towns and one city, will surely excite especially first time visitors as dancers in pawikan-inspired costumes thump their feet on the sandy beach.

Bancathon Kayak race, cookfest follow. After awarding and recognition of partner agencies, a beach party where the roaring of the waves can be heard caps the celebration.

Tax hike not a priority in CSF for 2014

"INCREASING collection fees that will burden our taxpayers is not a priority of my administration," San Fernando Mayor Edwin D. Santiago said during the annual taxpayers' symposium held at the Heroes Hall Mini-Theater on November 21.

The half-day symposium convened by the City Treasurer's Office and the Business License and Permit Division was attended by representatives of local business establishments who are scheduled to renew their business permits early next year.

"We are holding the taxpayers' symposium every year to inform our constituents about tax deadlines," Mary Ann Bautista, City Treasurer said.

The city's treasury department expressed its full support to Mayor Santiago's statement noting, however, that there may be foreseeable amendments in the schedule of fees as may be prescribed by law.

Revenue collection updates were presented by local finance officials. Attendees also raised their comments on tax payments, requirements and processes.

Also present during the symposium were City Councilors Tino Dizon, Lito Ocampo, and BJ Lagman and representatives from frontline service providers such as the Bureau of Fire Prevention (BFP), City Budget Office (CBO), City Health Office (CHO) and City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).

Fernandino taxpayers may start processing their business permits at the City Hall on the first week of December. Deadline of quarterly business tax payments is on January 20.

--- CSF-CIO





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Editorial

Binay!!!!!

THE HONORABLE Vice President of the Philippines, Jejomar C. Binay, before the Junior Chamber International Senate during their induction ceremonies in Bacolod City:

"This is not the time for disunity and mudslinging. Let us not allow selfish personal agenda from tainting our efforts to help the affected families. Likewise, let us rise above partisanship and the narrow, emasculating confines of politics, and render service to those in need, regardless of political affiliations."

Ever heard of verbal selfie?

That is someone loudly blabbering about others when in fact is channelling himself.

Okay, let us indulge Binay.

"Yolanda has issued the sternest and most tragic of warnings. And the chilling truth is that it may only herald the coming of larger and fiercer typhoons. We cannot change the whims of weather, at least not overnight. But we can change the way we build, the way we live, and the way we move after the winds and the waves calm down."

Yolanda has – indeed – issued the sternest and most tragic warning: Beware of politicians who put their interests, their very selves, above, over and before rescue, relief, retrieval of the victims and rehabilitation of affected areas.

The chilling thought is – God forbid! – a Binay presidency who, on the whims of politics, can undo the indictment of his cohorts in the PDAF scam; change the way we build, the way we live, and the way me move after the winds and waves calm down by printing his personal stickers on anything that has anything to do with relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Epal, huwag pakinggan!

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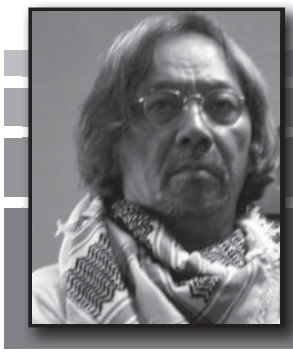
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Opinion

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Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Tried, tested, trounced

THE TIMES that try men's souls.

They have come upon us with the tragedy wrought by Supertyphoon Yolanda. Drawing out, primarily, the best in our people as CNN's Anderson Cooper's testimony to our indomitable spirit made all the world to witness: "…amidst the hunger and thirst, the chaos and confusion, we have seen the best in the Filipino people—their strength, their courage… people with every reason to despair, the right to be angry but instead find ways to laugh, to love, to stand up to move forward… they're bowed perhaps, their bodies tired and traumatized but they are not broken… *Maraming salamat* for all that you have shown us. *Maraming salamat* for showing us how to live."

Bringing out, inversely, the worst in our leaders.

President BS Aquino in his antediluvian address assuring the public of government's preparedness to face Yolanda with: the Air Force's C-130s fully mission-capable to respond to any contingency, its 32 aircraft on ready stand-by; the Navy's 20 ships already positioned in Cebu, Bicol, Cavite and Zamboanga; relief goods likewise pre-positioned in many of the areas expected to be affected by the supertyphoon.

Not one of BS Aquino's assurances finding the slightest realization nearly a week into the devastation, death, dislocation and desperation.

BS Aquino outsourcing blame for his administration's monumental failure on the local government units.

BS Aquino snarling – *"Bakit, buhay ka pa naman, ah"* – at a Leyte businessman who reported being shot at by a looter.

BS Aquino, incensed, walking out of his own briefing.

BS Aquino saying the estimated 10,000 fatalities was "too much," promptly relieving the police officer – no less than the region's top cop – who announced it. Giving his own estimate of "just" 2,000 to 2,500 dead. (Just in now, as we write this, BS Aquino conceding the number of fatalities has doubled that of his given ceiling – at 5,209 excluding the 1,755 unidentified bodies recovered in Tacloban City from Nov. 15 to 21.)

BS Aquino on primetime TV: "The delivery of food, water, and medicines to the most heavily affected areas is at the head of our priorities. We have tasked barangays to deliver and distribute these vital needs; 24,000 family food packs were already distributed in Tacloban yesterday; and these efforts are centralized in the eight largest barangays there."

Anderson Cooper and other international mediamen on cable TV: "Miserable, miserable" state of chaos and despair in Tacloban with no sense of any presence of government there.

BS Aquino etcetera, etcetera.

And then there's Mar Roxas, interior and local government secretary and husband to broadcaster Korina Sanchez. Not necessarily in that order.

It was BS Aquino himself that announced – the day before Yolanda struck – that Roxas – along with Defense Sec. Voltaire Gazmin – were "in Leyte to supervise preparations when the storm makes landfall in the province."

So where was Roxas – and Gazmin too – at the time of the devastation? Nobody bothered to say. Not Roxas. Not Gazmin. Not BS Aquino. Were they, in fact, in Leyte as announced by BS Aquino? Or did they pull out just in time and leave the people to their fate?

First thing we read of Roxas in the immediate aftermath was his asking the Tacloban mayor to cede powers to him. First thing we heard of Roxas was his spirited, albeit subtle, defense of his wife's malformed opinion of Cooper's reporting that impacted on the ineptitude of her beloved husband.

Epic fail for Roxas – the looting, aye, the chaos and disorder, of Tacloban that fall squarely and wholly on his lap, being the SILG which carries authority over the national police.

And then, there too, is Vice President Jejomar Binay, the very face of *epal-itics*. What is there more to say about the Dark Vader?

BS Aquino. Roxas. Binay. Tried, tested, and trounced.

Yeah, Yolanda wrought the times that try men's souls. And readily showed some men may be wanting in souls.

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Pass It Forward

Don Allan Dinio

Nakakainggit

SIYA AY may magandang bulaklak ngayon kahit hindi man niya 'Birthday!' Bakit nga ba? Nakakainggit! Sabi niya nag-away daw silang magasawa at binugbog siya. Naghingi daw siya ng patawad. Binili at binigyan siya ng magandang bulaklak!

Siya ay may magandang bulaklak ngayon kahit hindi man nila 'Anniversary!' Bakit nga ba? Nakakainggit! Sabi niya kagabi daw lasing ang asawa at itinulak siya sa dingding at mesa. Muntik na lang niya akong sinakal at ako'y lumaban. Nagpa-sorry naman siya. Binili at binigyan siya ng magandang bulaklak.

Siya ay may magandang bulaklak ngayon kahit hindi naman 'Mother's Day!' Bakit nga ba? Nakakainggit! May mga pasa siya sa mukha at 'black-eye!'

Namamaga ang kanyang braso at kamay. Anong nangyari Kumare? 'Nakakahiyang sabihin... Kumpare!' 'Pero eto, mahal pa rin niya ako!' Binili at binigyan siya ng magandang bulaklak.

Kung iiwanan ko siya saan naman ako pupunta? Hahanapin niya ako at ibabalik dito sa kanyang piling. Wala akong trabaho? Paaano iyong mga bata? Iyong kanilang kinabukasan? Totoo, araw-araw sobra ang ginagawa niya sa akin... pero ayaw ko siyang iwanan. Ilang beses na namin napag-usapan ito. Mga ilang araw... Binili at binigyan siya ng magandang bulaklak.

Itong Linggo, marami siyang mga bulaklak. Malalaki at sus... napakadami! Lahat ng mga kabitbahay at kanyang mga kaibigan hanga sila sa mga koronang bulaklak.

Marami ang nagtatanong kung bakit daw hindi naglakas ng loob at iniwan ang kanyang mahal sa buhay. Kung nagkataon... siya ay dapat buhay pa at masaya... at hindi nakaratay sa punerarya!

Sabi ko na lamang, kung minsan... may mga taong hindi marunong magmahal, maramot at sobra sa selos kasi wala silang tiwala sa kanilang sarili. Ang pag-aapi at pang-aabuso sa mahal mo ay tunay na number one na pagbabalatkayo kapag ito ay pinagtatakpan mo ng mga magagandang bulaklak bawat... pag-api at abuso!

Ngayon... wala ng mang-aabuso sa kumare ko at siya ay mayroon magagandang bulaklak pero galing sa tunay na mga mahal niya sa buhay at mga kaibigan! Nakakainggit?

TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

Source: www.kahimyang.info

Benigno Aquino Jr. is born in Concepcion, Tarlac

ON NOVEMBER 27, 1932, Senator Benigno Simeon "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., a popular newspaperman, politician and opposition leader who was assassinated on August 21, 1983 at the Manila International Airport upon returning from exile in the United States, was born in Concepcion, Tarlac.

Ninoy's death triggered the EDSA Revolution, famously known as the " EDSA People Power Revolution" of 1986 and brought his widow, Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, to the limelight and subsequently to the presidency.

Ninoy came from a political family, with his grandfather serving under President Emilio Aguinaldo, while his father held office under Presidents Manuel Quezon and Jose P. Laurel.

He earned the moniker "Wonder Boy" of Philippine politics for his various achievements -- being the youngest mayor of Concepcion, Tarlac, at age 22, youngest vice-governor at age 27, governor of Tarlac at age 29, and made history by becoming the youngest elected senator at age 34.

Ninoy was twice awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor. First with a rank of Officer for his service in Korea with the Philippine troops, working as Manila Times correspondent, when he was 18 years old, and the second with a rank of Commander, awarded on October 14, 1954 for successfully bringing Luis Taruc down from the hills.

During his tenure as legislator, he was selected by the Philippine Free Press magazine as one of the nation's most outstanding senators.

He was seen as a contender by many for the highest office in the land, the presidency. Surveys during those times showed that he was the number one choice among Filipinos, since then President Ferdinand Marcos, by law, was prohibited from serving another term.

However, when President Ferdinand E. Marcos issued Presidential Proclamation 1081 on September 21, 1972, placing the entire country under Martial Law, the Writ of Habeas Corpus was suspended, and Ninoy was one of those arrested and imprisoned along with the other activists for alleged subversion.

He suffered a heart attack while in prison and was allowed to leave for medical treatment in the United States.

In August 1983, Ninoy decided to go back to the Philippines, fully aware of the dangers that awaited him. Warned that he would either be imprisoned or killed, Aquino said, "If it's my fate to die by an assassin's bullet, so be it. But I cannot be petrified by inaction, or fear of assassination, and therefore stay in the side..."

He died on August 21, 1983 when he was shot in the head upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport (now renamed Ninoy Aquino International Airport).

In 2004, the anniversary of his death was proclaimed as a national holiday now known as Ninoy Aquino Day while several monuments were built in his honor, most renowned of which is the bronze memorial in Makati City near the Philippine Stock Exchange, and his image is printed on the 500-peso bill.





Napag-uusapan Lang

Felix M. Garcia

Pagtulong lang talaga, di pangangampanya

(Karugtong ng sinundang isyu)

HANGGANG sa sila ay ganap makabalik
Dito sa Pampanga at sila'y may bitbit
Ng kung anong leksyong marapat ikapit
Sa ating sarili kapag hinagupit
Tayo ng katulad ng biglang sinapit
Ng Leyte, Samar at iba pang karatig;

Na kung saan sabi nga niya ay di sapat
Ang tapang sa ganyang klaseng kalamidad,
Kundi bagkus 'evacuation' ang marapat,
Kapag may babala ng anumang dapat
Iwasan, upang sa ating komunidad
Ay di mag-iwan ng pinsala sa lahat.

Itong karaniwang isinasangkalan
Ng iba, na tanging mga babae lang,
Matatanda, saka mga bata ang siyang
Unahing i-evacuate sakalit may ganyang
Kalamidad na napipintong dumatal,
Ya'y di marapat na gawing panuntunan

Sapagkat kung sadyang lubhang mapanganib
Ang anumang sa'tin posibleng sumapit,
Yan di mamimili ng tibay ng dibdib,
Lakas ng katawan at tatag ng tindig
Nitong kung sinumang di payag umalis
Sa kinalalagyan, yakagin mang pilit;

Dahilan na rin sa hindi maiwanan
Ang kanilang bahay o munting tahanan,
Dala ng pangambang sila'y manakawan
Ng kanilang mahalagang kasangkapan,
O ng kahit man lang simpleng kagamitan
Na itinuturing nilang tanging yaman.

Pero ang kapalit kung di maging listo
Sa pag-iwas kapag tayo'y binabagyo,
May malaking baha at kauri nito,
Na masahol pa kung minsan sa delubyo
Ay marapat lang na magsikilos tayo
Para mailigtas ang sarili mismo.

At gumawa na r'yan ng kaparaanan
Bago pa tuluyang anurin kung saan
Ng 'flash flood' sa lugar na kinalalagyan,
Na maaring ikasawi't ikamatay,
Sakalit tangayin ka na ng tuluyan
Ng matuling agos na dulot ng ulan.

Upang di matulad sa grabeng sinapit
Nitong taga Leyte, na bagama't batid
Ng marami na ang bagyo'y papalapit
At napakalakas ng bayo o ihip,
Di pa rin natinag kundi nang sumapit
Si Yolanda't sila'y kanyang hinagupit!

Kaya sa puntong yan ay marapat lang na
Tayo'y maging laging handa sa tuwina,
Kapag may babala ring tulad o gaya
Nitong sa Leyte ay pinaalam nila
Pero hindi yata n'yan kinonsidera,
Ang pinsalang puedeng idulot kumbaga.

Kung kaya nasabi marahil ni Delta
Na ang katapangan ay hindi sapat na
Panlaban sa 'super typhoon' na kagaya
Ng sa Leyte province ay nanalasa na,
Sakali't tayo ay dalawin minsan pa
Dito sa atin ng tulad ni "Yolanda"!

(May karugtong pa)

NFA to looters: Share rice with other victims

By Dino Balabo

MALOLOS CITY—The National Food Authority (NFA) vowed not to go after those responsible in looting their warehouse in Alangalang, Leyte last week.

Instead, the food agency called on those involved to share the rice they took from the warehouse with fellow victims of Supertyphoon Yolanda.

In an interview with Radyo Bulacan, NFA spokesman Rex Estoperez said that Yolanda left an extraordinary situation that forced some people to do extraordinary steps.

He said that while NFA personnel in Leyte were able to get the plate numbers of vehicles like jeeps, pick-up trucks and tricycles used in the looting, they will not file charges.

"Sa mga ganoong pagkakataon, hindi pases na gutom ka ay gagawa ka ng masama, pero ang pakiusap namin sa mga nakakuha, eh i-share na lang sa mga nabiktima rin," Estoperez said noting that "ito ang panahon ng pagtutulungan."

Based on records, NFA lost 33,000 bags of rice in the said looting, along with 16,000 bags of rice and another 96,000 bags of palay that got wet during the typhoon.

Estoperez, however , made assurance that despite the above loses, the NFA has enough inventory of rice for calamity stricken areas in the Visayas, including Bohol which was hit by an earthquake, Zamboanga which suffered from an armed conflict and areas in Luzon damaged by typhoon Santi in early October.

The NFA spokesman also said that since November 14, the agency has been releasing an average of 15,000 bags of rice to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for repacking in Manila.

The said volume is in addition to 53,000 bags being repacked daily in Tacloban City.

With regards to rice supply in the coming weeks, Estoperez said that the NFA Council has approved importation of 500,000 metric tons of rice which is expected to arrive in the country before the end of December.

For next year, he said that an initial 350,000 metric tons of rice will be imported.

He explained that decision if the country will import more rice next year depends on the fourth quarter assessment of rice harvested in the country.

"The NFA will still decide on whether to import more rice or not for next year," he said noting that arriving imported rice in December was meant to address needs in calamity stricken areas.

Citing NFA records, Estoperez said that rice producing areas in the country were affected by calamities. This includes Samar and Leyte provinces which he said produce a third of the rice production in the country.

Other rice producing areas are Cagayan Valley in Region 2, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan in Regon 3, along with provinces in regions 4 and 5 and areas in Mindanao.



CHRISTMAS PROMO. Megaworld Pampanga Division headed by Coco Laus (4th from right) offers exciting discounts to clients during the Megaworld open house at Italianni's Restaurant Marquee Mall last November 23.

Irrigation chief denies hiding order vs. employee

By Armand Galang

CABANATUAN CITY – A ranking irrigation official maintained on Thursday she did not conceal a dismissal order issued by the Office of the Ombudsman against an agency employee four years ago.

Engineer Josie Salazar, department manager of the National Irrigation Administration-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-UPRIIS) also vowed to answer the graft charges filed against her by two anti-graft foundations.

Salazar said the graft charges are unfounded and without any legal basis, adding this would nevertheless afford her the opportunity to air her side on the controversy.

"I am innocent of the charges levelled against me and I am confident that once the issues have been properly ventilated, that the Office of the Ombudsman will dismiss them for lack of merit," she said in a press statement.

On Oct. 24, 2013, Bantay-Bayan Foundation and the NGO Empowerment Foundation filed a graft case before the Ombudsman against Salazar for allegedly failing to serve the anti-graft order dismissing Melanio Santos, senior water resources technician of Division 3 office of UPRIIS.

The dismissal of Santos was ordered by the Ombudsman on Sept. 25, 2009 "for gross misconduct and dishonesty for non-remittance of irrigation service fee collection."

Last May 6, Director Ma. Luisa Salonga-Agamata of the Civil Service Commission's public assistance information office wrote then-NIA Administrator Antonio Nangel regarding an anonymous text complaint launched through its Contact Center ng Bayan against Salazar involving the case of Santos.

Salazar lamented that some quarters could have been out to besmirch her name.

In her reply to Salonga-Agamata's letter, Salazar stated that she assumed her post as operations manager of UPRIIS on October 27,2011. "From the date of my assumption up to this writing, I have not received any communication or instruction from the Office of the Ombudsman regarding the dismissal order of Mr. Santos,"she said.



Pampanga welcomes Fiesta Communities Mexico

MEXICO, Pampanga – Another dream come true for our fellow Kapampangans as Fiesta Communities Inc. launches its 5th community in Pampanga, Fiesta Communities Mexico.

Fiesta Coomunities Inc. is commited in providing affordable housing units in a community that is safe and convenient for every family. November 23 marks the grand opening of Fiesta Communities Mexico, located at Brgy. Sabanilla Mexico, Pampanga with 17.7 hectares and future construction of 1, 831 housing units.

Fiesta Communities Mexico is strategically located near schools, church, malls, barangay hall and public market. Within the community each homeowner can enjoy exclusive amenities like jogging path, basketball court, open space, parks and playground, bayanihan hall and 24 hour gated security. The project site is accessible via 2 entry points from Brgy. Masamat and Brgy Lagundi.

Over 400 guests including homebuyers, sales agents and brokers are expected to grace the event to witness the opening and blessing of model units in stylish interior designs.

Swak sa budget with a lowest amortization of P2,651.53 per month for a house and lot. Reserve now and get up to P50,000 discount and for only P5,000 reservation fee.

For further information visit Fiesta Communities Mexico sub-office at LRK Building Stall # 6, Brgy. Lagundi, Mexico, Pampanga. For inquiries call 0917-534-3782 or (045) 625-7112.

–Press Release

Babae pinatay, sinunog ng BF

Ni Johnny R. Reblando

OLONGAPO CITY -Patay ang isang di pa kilalang babae makaraan itong sunugin ng kanyang umano'y kasintahan sa isang beach resort sa lungsod na ito.

Ang biktima ay nasa taas na 5' at nasa pagitan ng 20 hanggang 25 taong gulang.

Sa imbestigasyon ng pulisya ganap na alas-5:30 ng madaling araw nang masunog ang cottage ng Halfmoon Beach Resort, Lower Kalaklan kung saan nag check-in ang magkasintahan.

Batay sa salaysay sa pulisya ng security guard na si Christopher Pascual, 22, isang nagngangalan umanong Marvin Fernandez kasama ang isang babae ang nag check in sa resort na binabantayan niya ganap na alas-11:30 ng gabi.

Ayon sa mga testigo sa pagitan ng hatinggabi at alauna ng madaling araw nang marinig nilang nag-aaway ang magkasintahan sa labas ng cottage at pagkatapos ay bigla na lamang itong tumahimik.

Laking gulat ng caretaker na si Sonny Nacincino kinabukasan nang makitang nasusunog ang cottage kung saan naka check in ang magkasintahan.

Batay sa isinagawang pagsisiyasat ng Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) ang biktima ay may sugat sa ulo bago ito sinunog.

Patuloy na inaalam ng pulisya ang pagkakakilanlan sa biktima at ang address ng suspek.

Mt. Pinatubo Eruption

Massive devastation. Wholesale dislocation.
Death. Hunger. Despair

"A hopeless case was made of the long derided City of Lost Angels.

But out of the depths of desolation and despair rose a clarion call to rise above any catastrophe, to surpass any challenge, to turn even the worst tragedies into triumph..."

Taken from the Coffee Table Book
"AGYU TAMU: Turning Tragedy Into Triumph"

TIGTIGAN TERAKAN KENG DALAN
2013
22nd Edition

The Tigtigan Terakan King Dalan (TTKD) is the first step in rekindling flickers of hope that the city can rise again.

Let us celebrate TTKD and share the innate grit and determination, resiliency and ingenuity, and the never-say-die spirit of the Angeleños so that the people of Leyte, Samar, Tacloban and other people affected by Supertyphoon Yolanda may be inspired to rise again from this tragic event.

-Atty. Edgardo D. Pamintuan
Mayor, Angeles City

November 29-30, 2013

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5 nabbed for drugs, gun

By Ding Cervantes

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO - The Pampanga police's anti-illegal drugs operations have resulted in the recent arrest of four suspects in Lubao and another in Floridablanca, as well as in the seizure of their arms and drugs paraphernalia.

Provincial police director Senior Supt. Oscar Albayalde said the operations in Lubao was conducted by cops from the Provincial Intelligence Branch (PIB) and the Provincial Anti-Illegal Drugs Operation Task Force (PAIDSOTF) led by Senior Inspector Joven de Guzman.

PIB chief Supt. Rodney Baloyo IV said the arrest was made after a buy-bust set up by the team. He identified the suspects as Romano Mendoza, 42, Michael Lapira, 25, both of Nativ-idad in Guagua; Gino Capa, 50, and Joey Lambid, 35, both of San Roque in Lubao.

The police team confiscated from them one piece medium heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet containing suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, 19 pieces small heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing suspected shabu, one piece P500 bill and a P100 marked bill used by the cops for the buy-bust, one cal.38 revolver with defaced serial number loaded with five bullets, and assorted illegal drug paraphernalia.

The arrested suspects were detained at the PIB Office and the recovered pieces of evidence were sent to PNP Crime Laboratory 3, Camp Olivas for laboratory and ballistic examination, Albayalde said.

Mendoza is now facing charges including one without benefit of bail and another that requires P200,000 bail.

Lapira's case requires a P200,000 bail while the other two had P60,000 each as bail.

In Barangay Calantas, Floridablanca, the police arrested Denwill Mallari for illegal possession of firearm, ammunition and explosive as a result of a search in his residence as ordered by a local court. It turned out that the suspect was also involved in illegal drugs and indicated by drugs paraphernalia found in his residence.

The search and arrest was done by PIB policemen led by Baloyo who found in the suspect's residence two hand grenades, one cal. 38 Armscor pistol, one live ammunition for the pistol, one piece live ammunition for a 12 gauge shotgun, a gun holster, two pieces medium sized transparent plastic sachets containing suspected shabu, two pieces of aluminum foil strips, five disposable lighters, three improvised glass pipes, cellular phones, several empty transparent plastic sachets containing suspected traces of shabu, a pair of scissors and, one weighing scale.

The search and arrest was witnessed by barangay officials, a representative from the media and the Department of Justice. The pieces of evidence were also brought to PNP Crime Laboratory at Camp Olivas.

Mallari was charged in court and was not entitled to bail in one case, but two other cases against him granted bail worth P200,000 and P40,000.

Clark firm cuts cost for P2-B project...

From page 1

The quarry site is located just a few meters from the Sacobia Bridge across the Zoocobia Paradise Ranch.

The owners of Midori Hotel, Taiwanese businessmen Jack Yam and Tony Huang and their local partner Irineo "Bong" Alvaro, are also the owners of BB International Leisure and Resort Development Corp. (BBI) now constructing a multi-billion water theme park project here, the Clark Valley View Leisure and Resort located at Gate 14 at the northwestern section of this freeport.

The BBI project has been receiving flak for being sited inside the ancestral domain of the Aeta tribes, even as local environmentalists have branded it as a "threat to the Clark watershed."

The Midori Hotel is located on a 2.5-hectare property on Kalayaan Street near the Fontana Leisure Parks and the Mimosa Resort.

The soil extraction for Midori was allegedly approved by CDC- Public Safety Department (CDC-PSD) Manager Gen. Ricardo Banayat (Ret.).

According to documents obtained by Punto!, the soil for the Midori project is supposed to be imported from Pangasinan.

However, in order to cut costs, the managers of the Midori project reportedly requested Banayat for the approval of the soil extraction at the Sacobia quarry site for 12 truckloads per day. The quarry site is about two kilometers from the project site.

The illegal soil extraction has been going on for two weeks, a source said. A hill is now almost flattened because of the soil extraction, he added.

The source said CDC approved the soil extraction project to widen the road along the Sacobia area when they asked why it is allowing the quarrying in Sacobia.

Engr. Rey Cruz of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said he is not aware of any permit issued for the Midori project in the area.

He said "any extraction of ordinary earth or quarry materials should be covered by pertinent permits."

In the case of Midori, "wala po kaming alam dyan (we don't know anything about that.)"

SoKor's most wanted collared in...

From page 1

gest organized crime syndicates in South Korea. Cho founded the Yangeuni Family in 1978 and once made it as the biggest gang in Korea.

Before hiding in Angeles City, the Korean police were hot on his trail for his alleged involvement in a financial scam.

The Korea Times also said the gang set up companies to invest in construction, leisure, hotels and financing and even engage in contracts with public agencies.

"They do business with legally-obtained licenses. The difference is that they sometimes use violence and blackmail people to expand their business," a Korean police officer said.

"Previously, the biggest income sources for Cho were nightclubs, bars, karaoke rooms and massage parlors where prostitution also took place. They extorted money from such businesses under the pretext of protecting them from other rings and sometimes ran their own store," according to the Korea Times.

–Ashley Manabat

Clark Green City displacing 2,000 Aeta...

From page 1

ing genuine land reform," Canlas said.

"In Capas alone, some 19,972 hectares are covered by the reservation which are all within the ancestral domain of the Aetas. About 2,000 Aeta families have been told to leave 30 sitios or barangays such as Aranguren, O'Donnek, Maruglu, Sta. Lucia, Bueno at Sta. Juliana," said a joint statement issued by the AMGL, Central Luzon Ayta Association (CLAA), Anakpawis party-list, and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

Canlas noted that already, a group called Kilusang Nagtatanggol sa Inang Kalikasan (KNIK) has been formed in Tarlac to protest the project. The group is composed of Aetas, farmers and other residents of Capas, including those who belong to such groups as Pagmimiha Organization, Labayku Organization, Bamban Ayta Tribal Association, Sta. Lucia Manggahan Association and, Nagkakaisang Naninirahan ng Sta. Lucia at Koalisyong Makabayan – Tarlak.

Canlas recalled that the subject lands had always been Aeta domain until 1947 when the lands were made a military reservation for the US Air Force at Clark. The entire area covered 33,653 hectares, he noted.

When the Americans abandoned Clark in 1991, it became owned by the government-controlled BCDA which later reserved it for the Clark Green City project that would cost P200 million and was meant to replicate the Songdo International Business District in Korea.

Canlas said the military has barred Aetas in the area from expanding their farms and imposed curfew in Aeta communities, as he cited reports that the area has been found to be rich in manganese, gold and magnetite.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE

IN THE MATTER FOR NOTARY
PUBLIC IN GUAGUA, PAMPANGA — **APPLICATION NO. G-56-2013**

ATTY. BIENVENIDA N. CARREON
Petitioner.
x----------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a summary hearing on the petition dated October 30, 2013 for appointment as notary public of ATTY. BIENVINIDA N. CARREON shall be held on December 3, 2013, at the courtroom of the RTC, Branch 52, Hall of Justice, San Matias, Guagua, Pampanga at 2:00 in the afternoon. Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the grant of the petition may file before said date a verified written opposition thereto.

Guagua, Pampanga, November 18, 2013.

JONEL S. MERCADO
Executive Judge

PUNTO! Central Luzon: November 27, 2013

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE
ANGELES CITY

ATTY. ROMEO L. YUSI, JR., Application No. **2013-431**
Petitioner,
ATTY. MYLENE GAY A. YTURRALDE-CHAN Application No. **2013-432**
Petitioner,
ATTY. NIÑO BALTAZAR YU ENRIQUEZ, Application No. **2013-433**
Petitioner,
x----------x

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that summary hearings on the petitions for notarial commission of:

ATTY. ROMEO L. YUSI, JR.,
ATTY. MYLENE GAY A. YTURRALDE-CHAN
ATTY. NINO BALTAZAR YU ENRIQUEZ,

will be held on **December 18, 2013** at the Regional Trial Court, **Branch 57,** Hall of Justice, Pulung Maragul, Angeles City at **9:00 a.m.** . Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the grant of the petitions may file a verified written opposition thereto, received by the undersigned before the date of the summary hearings.

Angeles City, **November 25, 2013.**

OMAR T. VIOLA
Executive Judge

Punto! Central Luzon: November 27, 2013

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **FELIPA C. TOLENTINO** who died intestate on July 31, 2000 and **IGNACIO A. TOLENTINO** who died intestate on March 25, 2006 executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement of their estate, more particularly described as a parcels of land, together with all the improvements existing thereon, described as follows:

TCT No. 54594

Lot B, of the consolidation and subdivision plan, Pcs-03-000310, being a portion of the consolidated Lots 3, Block 28, (LRC) Psd-23701 & Lot 4-A, (LRC) Psd-28128, L.R.C. Rec. No.__, situated in Barrio of Santol, City of Angeles;

TCT No. 35140

Lot 17, Block No. 8, of the subdivision plan, Psd-24269, being a portion of Lot No. 684-A of the Cadastral Survey of Angeles, G.L.R.O. Rec. No. 124, situated in the Barrio of Balibago, Municipality of Angeles;

before Notary Public Elaiza S. Sabile David as per Doc No. 273, Page 32, Book X, Series of 2012.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 27, December 4 & 11, 2013

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **CRESCENCIO V. GALANG** who died intestate on August 2, 2012 and **MARIETTA T. GALANG** who died intestate on February 14, 2006, both in Angeles City, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement of their estate, more particularly described as a parcels of land, together with all the improvements existing thereon, described as follows:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 47868

Lot 22, Block 24 of the subdivision plan (LRC), Psd-18118 (sheet 1) being a portion of Lot 671 of the Cadastral Survey of Angeles, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Rec. No. 124, situated in the Barrios of Balibago and Pandan, Municipality of Angeles;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 48478

Lot 21, Block 24 of the subdivision plan (LRC), Psd-18166 (sheet 1) being a portion of Lot 671 of the Cadastral Survey of Angeles, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Rec. No. 124, situated in the Barrios of Balibago and Pandan, Municipality of Angeles;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 80550

Lot 6, Block 37 of the subdivision plan (LRC), Psd-93371 (sheet 2) being a portion of Lot 34-A-3, described on plan (LRC) Psd-64836, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Rec. No. 124, situated in the District of Cutcut, Municipality of Angeles;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 70234-R

Lot 19, Block 4 of the subdivision plan (LRC), Psd-71490, being a portion of Lot 1699 of the Cadastral Survey of Porac, LRC Cad. Rec. No. , situated in the Barrio of Sta. Rita, Municipality of Porac;

before Notary Public Elaiza S. Sabile David as per Doc No. 1893, Page 64, Book XIV, Series of 2013.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 27, December 4 & 11, 2013

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **VALENTINO MAGSINO LAGMAN** who died on September 24, 2013 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement of his estate, more particularly described as 3 motor vehicles (Honda Jazz with PLate No. RKP 995, Engine No. L13XZ13700040, Chassis No. MRHGE6730BP020016; Honda Civic with Plate No. RKS 805, Engine No. R18A17704339, Chassis No. PADFD1530AV4004230; and Honda City with Plate No. RHH 211, Engine No. L15A7-1400030, Chassis No. PADGM26509V000049) before Notary Public Reydon P. Canlas as per Doc No. 971, Page 56, Book LVI, Series of 2013.

Punto! Central Luzon: November 20, 27 & December 4, 2013



The Gossipmiller

Cesar Pambid

27th Star Awards for Television winners

Sa ikalawang pambihirang pagkakataon, nag-tie ang ABS-CBN-2 at GMA-7 bilang Station of the Year sa katatapos lamang Star Awards for Television na ginanap sa AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo last Sunday night.

Eighteen years ago (1995) nang unang mag-tie ang dalawang higanteng network sa nasabing kategorya sa Star Awards at ngayon lamang naulit.

Nag-tie din sina Coco Martin for Juan dela Cruz at Richard Yap for Be Careful With My Heart sa Best Drama Actor category gayundin sa Best Drama Supporting Actor category na napanalunan nina Arjo Atayde for Dugong Buhay at Aaron Villaflor for Juan dela Cruz.

Solo naman ni Marian Rivera ang Best Drama Actress para naman sa pagganap niya sa Temptation of Wife.

Nanalo namang Best Drama Supporting Actress si KC Concepcion para sa seryeng Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala.

Ito ang una niyang acting award at hindi makapaniwala ang young actress sa tinamong tropeo at say niya sa acceptance speech, aktres na rin daw siya.

Pinasalamatan niya ang inang si Sharon Cuneta for inspiring her gayundin ang bida ng serye na si Judy Ann Santos na para na rin daw niyang big sister.

First time-winner din si Nikki Gil na tumanggap naman ng Best Single Performance by an Actress para naman sa Ilog episode niya ng Maalaala Mo Kaya.

First time rin na manalo ng acting award ni Andrea Brillantes bilang Best Child Performer para naman sa seryeng Annaliza. Madamdamin ang kanyang acceptance speech at umaakyat pa lang siya sa stage ay umiiyak na siya.

Na-bother kami at na-curious sa sinabi ni Andrea na may nangbu-bully sa kanya. Umiiyak niyang sabi, “thank you rin sa mga nagbu-bully sa akin, sa mga nagsasabing pangit ako, na hindi ako mananalo, na hindi ako sisikat.”

Pati ang manager niyang si Becky Aguila ay nagulat nang makarating sa kanya ang sinabi ng child star dahil hindi raw niya alam na iyon ang sasabihin ng bagets. Pati nga raw ang ina nito ay nagulat din.

Anyway, gabi ng mga naggagandahang female stars ang nasabing awards night. Nagniningning ang beauty nina KC, Kim Chiu (na nanalong Female Star of the Night) at Marian nang gabing iyon.

Sina Vice Ganda naman and Coco Martin ang pinakamaraming fans sa loob ng theater dahil sa rami ng mga nagsigawan sa kanila.

Sa pamumuno ni Pangulong Fernan de Guzman, ang kabuuan ng 27th PMPC Star Awards for TV ay mapapanood sa ABS-CBN Sunday’s Best sa December 1, 2013. Ito’y mula sa Airtime Marketing Philippines ni Ms. Tess Celestino at sa direksyon ni Al Quinn.

Narito ang partial list ng mga nanalo:

BEST PRIMETIME DRAMA SERIES : Juan Dela Cruz / ABS -CBN 2
BEST DAYTIME DRAMA SERIES: Be Careful With My Heart / ABS-CBN 2
BEST DRAMA ACTRESS : Marian Rivera / Temptation Of Wife / GMA 7
BEST DRAMA ACTOR: Coco Martin / Juan Dela Cruz / ABS-CBN 2 and Richard Yap / Be Careful With My Heart / ABS-CBN 2
BEST DRAMA SUPPORTING ACTRESS: KC Concepcion / Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala / ABS-CBN 2
BEST DRAMA SUPPORTING ACTOR: Arjo Atayde / Dugong Buhay / ABS-CBN 2 and Arron Villaflor / Juan Dela Cruz / ABS-CBN 2
BEST DRAMA ANTHOLOGY: Magpakailanman / GMA 7
BEST SINGLE PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS: Nikki Gil / MMK -- Ilog / ABS-CBN 2
BEST SINGLE PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR: Carlo Aquino / MMK -- Pulang Laso / ABS-CBN 2
BEST CHILD PERFORMER: Andrea Brillantes / Annaliza / ABS-CBN 2
BEST NEW MALE TV PERSONALITY: Ruru Madrid / Maynila: Faith In Love / GMA 7
BEST NEW FEMALE TV PERSONALITY: Janella Salvador / Be Careful With My Heart / ABS-CBN 2
BEST GAG SHOW: Banana Split:Extra Scoop / ABS-CBN 2 and Bubble Gang / GMA-7
BEST COMEDY SHOW: Pepito Manoloto / GMA-7
BEST COMEDY ACTOR: Michael V / Bubble Gang / GMA-7
BEST COMEDY ACTRESS : Rufa Mae Quinto / Bubble Gang / GMA-7

Dingdong Dantes tinawag na ‘kabiyak’ ni Marian Rivera

HINDI PA nai-interview si Marian Rivera sa nakakakilig niyang acceptance speech sa First Gintong Palad Public Service Award ng Movie Writers Welfare Foundation (MWWF).

Tinawag nitong “kabiyak” si Dingdong Dantes na ikinatuwa ng DongYan fans. Twice pa niyang binanggit ang “kabiyak.”

Heto ang speech ni Marian: “Sa ngalan po ng aking kabiyak na si Dingdong Dantes, marami pong salamat dahil ako rin bilang kanyang kabiyak ay nakikita ko po ang pagmamalasakit at pagmamahal niya sa kanyang kapuwa higit lalo po sa Yes Pinoy Foundation na talagang ipinagmamalaki ko po siya. At dahil sa pag-mamalasakit at pagmamahal niyang tunay sa kapwa niya, lalo ko siyang minahal.”

Samantala, hindi natuloy ang first taping day kahapon ng Catarina (Ang Pinakamagandang Babae sa Buong Mundo) at baka sa December na ang taping. Sa halip, sumama ito sa GMA Kapuso Foundation sa Cebu para sa relief operation.

Dagdag na tuwa ni Marian ang pananalong Best Drama Actress sa Star Awards para sa Temptation of Wife. Nominated din siya for the same soap sa Asian TV Awards na December 5 ang awards night sa Singapore.



Marian Rivera

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840LFS • 900LMF • 1056END

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700 • 835LFS • 900LMF • 1035END

4 When The Love is Gone (R13)
1050FS • 1100MF • 130 • 400 • 630
830LFS • 900LMF • 1100END

5 Call Center Girl (PG)
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820LFS • 900LMF • 1045END

6 When The Love is Gone (R13)
1130FS • 1200MF • 230 • 500
700LFS • 730LMF • 930END

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1 When The Love is Gone (R13)
1050FS • 1100MF • 130 • 400 • 630
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Schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Malunggay now a source of dollar earnings for Phl

By Ashley Manabat

CLARK FREEPORT -- Unknown to most Filipinos, the generally ignored malunggay or kalamungge in Kapampangan (known worldwide by its scientific name moringa) is becoming an important source of foreign exchange earnings for the country.

A growing number of entrepreneurs have gone into the processing of malunggay leaves into powder form to supply the requirements of foreign-based manufacturers and exporters of food supplements and health products, according to Dr. Ed Araral, a consultant of the Pampanga State Agricultural University on agricultural crop propagation and animal husbandry.

In an interaction with members of the Capampangan in Media, Inc. (CAMI) during their weekly Friday media forum Balitaan at the Bale Balita here, Araral noted that Philippine-made malunggay powder shipped abroad is imported into the country as food supplements in capsule form and sold at an average price of P8.50 per capsule.

He said he finds this ironic as local processors can produce the same product cheaper and sell the same for only P1 apiece or P7.50 lower than the re-packed item abroad owing to the fact that moringa is abundant in the country.

Other malunggay-based products, like butter processed abroad from the seeds of moringa, is marketed locally in high-end outlets and unaffordable to ordinary Filipino consumers.

"It is for this reason why I am pushing for two initiatives that urge state action to spur the growth of the malunggay processing industry as well as encourage the wider cultivation of malunggay trees and the consumption of products derived from this source of the now widely recognized super food," Araral said.

One of his proposed initiatives, which Araral planned to submit to the 5th National Moringa Convention also held last Friday at the nearby Mimosa Convention Center here, calls on the Bureau of Food and Drugs Administration (BFDA) to adopt a policy that will hasten the accreditation of locally-made moringa food supplements/health products.

This lack of policy has both hampered the growth of the local morinaga industry for medical and food supplements and put it at a disadvantage vis-a-vis its foreign competitors, he said without ticking off any hard data as to the size of this sector in terms of volume output and export, number of entities engaged in this business, as well as the number of employed by the industry.

Araral's other initiative prompts the Department of Education (DepEd) to require all primary and secondary students to plant at least three moringa trees and encourage the consumption of processed products of malunggay, which he described as the "most nutritious source of vitamins, minerals and protein among all food products."

For instance, he pointed out, malunggay yields essential amino acids similar to what is found in milk, fish and meat.

Advocates of moringa claim the leaves of this tree pack seven times the vitamin C of oranges; eight times the vitamin A of carrots; four times the calcium of milk; three times the Potassium of bananas, and two times the protein of yogurt apart from being a good source for fiber and iron.

In countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Singapore and others in the African continent anecdotal data claim that the leaves of malunggay yield more than 90 nutrients and 46 antioxidants, and their consumption could deter and cure such "silent killers" as hyperlipidemia (high cholesterol), hypertension (high blood pressure) and atherosclerosis (arteries hardening) -- an awareness that has caught on in highly-developed markets, like the US and European countries.

This explains the sudden surge in the demand for products derived from this tree, like powdered leaves and oil squeezed from its seeds that has found used in the manufacture of high-value butter and even beauty products, creating a huge market potential for this tree that thrives in the Philippines and other tropical Asian and African countries.

The moringa tree is very easy to propagate with very little amount of water. In the African language the moringa tree is known as the "never-die-tree" because of its ability to survive in acute dry conditions.

Its leaves are the most nutritious part of the tree and are widely used in salads, curries and chutneys, for instance, in India and in the Philippines.



KATARUNGAN 2016. Malinaw ang mensahe ng mga mamamahayag at magaaral kay Pangulong Aquino, tiyaking makakamit ang katarungan para sa mga biktima ng Maguindanao Massacre. Ito ay kaugnay ng paggunita sa ika-apat na taon ng masaker. **Kuha ni Dino Balabo**

