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Punto! Central Luzon

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PANANAW NG MALAYANG PILIPINO!

Koreano-phobia emerging in AC

By Ding Cervantes

CLARK FREEPORT -- Who's afraid of local Koreans?

Locals have much to thank the Koreans for. To much extent, Koreans are changing neighboring Angeles City's image as "Sin City" as they come to do business or study in local schools or play decent games such as golf. Although they seem largely cocooned to themselves, their businesses provide jobs to scores of locals whose skills can't fit into this freeport.

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WHO'S WHO. No names needed as we know who. Tarps signal start of political hostilities in Pampanga's 3rd District. **Photos by Bong Lacson**

SC orders CDC execs to comment on disbarment case

By Ashley Manabat

CLARK FREEPORT – The Supreme Court's (SC) Second Division has issued a resolution requiring Clark Development Corp. (CDC) President-CEO Arthur P. Tugade to file a comment on a disbarment case lodged against him last January 23.

Also named in the SC resolution which was dated July 8 but was only received by the respondents last week was lawyer Juvy R. Manwong of the CDC Legal Department.

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2014 criminal case vs. ex-LTO chief gathering dust at DOJ

ANGELES CITY- The Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) challenged yesterday Pres. Aquino and other administration officials to stop merely issuing "damage control" statements amid pending criminal complaints against former Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief Virginia Torres.

UMA Acting Chairperson John Milton Lozande said that Aquino can immediately prove his sincerity in "punishing wrongdoers" by "simply looking into strong complaints made against Torres by Hacienda Luisita farmers last year, which are now gathering dust at the Department of Justice (DOJ)."

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STARTING TO LOOK LIKE. Christmas, unmistakenly, with colorful lights and native bibingka kiosk along Jose Abad Santos Avenue in the City of San Fernando. **Photo by Bong Lacson**

House probe on rampant sugar smuggling backed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO - A farmers' federation has expressed "strong support" for a move in Congress to investigate sugar smuggling following the "sugargate" scandal involving former Land Transportation Office chief Virginia Torres.

John Milton Lozande, acting chair of the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) said his federation is backing House Resolution No. 2413 directing the House Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct a deep probe on rampant sugar smuggling in the country.

Lozande is also the

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GIRL SCOUT WEEK CELEBRATION. Some 2,500 Girl Scout members participate in the Girl Scout Week celebration at The Event Centre of SM City Clark, Sept. 26. Fun-filled activities included Twinkler & Star Girls Scouts Modern Dance Remix Competition, Junior & Senior Girl Scouts Cheer Dance Competition, Badge Fair, Collage Making, Camera Scavenger Hunt, Games and Wellness Exercises. **Contributed photo**

AS IT CELEbRATES 70 YEARS

Victory Liner adopts 'airline-type services, airport-like terminals'

By Ashley Manabat

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – A big spike in the number of bus passengers for the last five years has prompted a pioneering bus company to improve its services into "an airline-type of experience and airport-like terminals" for the convenience and riding safety of its passengers.

"We are currently focusing and improving our services in our existing routes," said Victory Liner (VL) bus company operations manager Ronald Sarmiento here last Friday.

"We are gearing towards an airline-type of experience and also look forward to experiencing an airport-like atmosphere in our terminals," he added.

Yvonne Gantioqui, VL finance and administrative manager, said the company is anticipating the economic growth in Northern and Central Luzon to further rise in the next 20 years and with it comes an influx of people going to and from these regions.

According to Gantioqui, "we expect the gross domestic product (GDP) of the region to grow by six to eight percent per year for the next 20 years."

She said government plans to develop the Northern Luzon corridor as a promising place for domestic and foreign investments has boosted their optimism.

"In the past years, more and more businesses are shifting their operations from the already jampacked National Capital Region (NCR) to the still wider expanses of lands in Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bataan and Zambales," she said.

"Due to the renewed confidence of investors in the Philippine economy, this has resulted to a boom not just of consumer but of investor confidence in such places as this capital city of Pampanga, Baguio City in Benguet, Dagupan City in Pangasinan and even Clark and Subic," she added.



CELEBRATING VICTORY. Yvonne Gantioqui and Ronald Sarmiento.
Photo by Bong Lacson

"We see huge number of foreigners and locals flocking to these cities in Northern and Central Luzon not just for leisure, but more so for business," Gantioqui said.

Because of the huge number of people travelling to the north, their bus company is facing "overcapacity" which "we try to resolve every single day," she said.

"We observe that there is a lack of public transport because current providers cannot accommodate everyone. Demand far exceeds supply," Gantioqui said.

However, she lamented that the bus industry cannot expand due to government regulations. "We buy new buses to replace the old ones as part of our annual re-fleeting program, she said. "We modernize about 10 percent of our fleet annually," she added.

VL, described as one of the biggest in the industry, has a fleet of about 900 busses plying major routes in Northern and Central Luzon.

The bus company will be celebrating its 70th anniversary of servicing Filipino commuters on October 15.



PuTOL uLO, 2 KAMAY

Chop-chop body natagpuan

SAMAL, Bataan- Isang lalaki ang natagpuang patay na walang ulo at putol ang dalawang kamay madaling-araw ng Biyernes sa tabi ng rough road na malayo sa kabahayan sa isang upland sityo sa bayang ito.

Natagpuan ni David Tirol, Jr., isang manggagawang bukid, habang pauwi na sakay ng motorsiklo sa Sitio Parang, Barangay Ibaba matapos manguryente ng isda.

"Sa pamamagitan ng ilaw ng headlight ko, nakita ko ang taong nakatagilid na akala ko lasing at nakatulog lamang ngunit nang lapitan ko wala na palang ulo at putol ang dalawang kamay," sabi ni Tirol.

Ang lugal na ang tawag ay Aplo ay mararating lamang sa pamamagitan ng rough at makitid na gravel road na ang paligid ay damuhan at kadawagan. Halos kalahating kilometro ang layo nito sa mga kabahayan sa Parang.

Ayon kay Nestor Orias, funeral attendant ng Funeraria Punzalan sa Orani, Bataan, may tama ng bala ng baril sa singit ang biktima.

Kinilala umano ng mga kamag-anak ang biktima na si Fernando Ocampo, Jr., 56, isang house caretaker sa Bamban, Hermosa, Bataan. May taong sumundo diumano sa biktima Huwebes ng hapon.

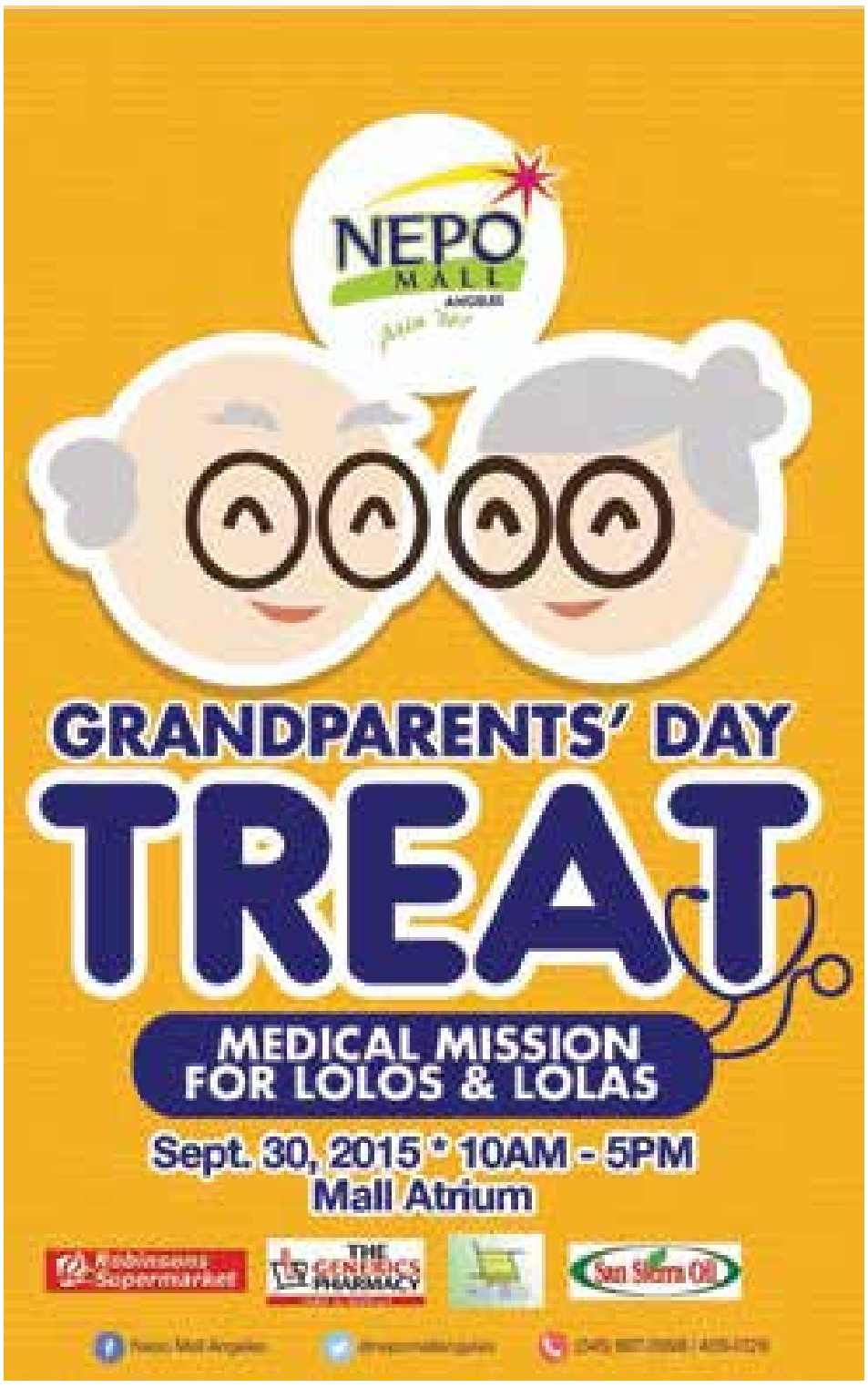
Patuloy pa ang imbestigasyon ng pulisya na nagsabing natagpuan sa ibabaw ng katawan ni Ocampo ang isang signage na nakasulat ang "Huwag akong tularan, pusher ako."

–Ernie Esconde

NOTICE OF ExTRAjudICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **LAMbERTO M. LANSANG** who died intestate on November 26, 2012 at 209 Don Gueco St., Brgy. Balibago, Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights of his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 25, Block 12 of the subdivision plan Psd-50346, being a portion of Lot 99-C described on plan Sxo-7750, L.R.C. Rec. No. 124) with existing improvements, situated in theBarrio of Balibago, Municipality of Angeles, Province of Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 90079, before Notary Public Cecil L. Andin as per Doc No. 87, Page No. 19, Book No. XVI, Series of 2013.

Punto! Central Luzon: September 22, 29 & October 6, 2015



City gov't to extend scholarship grants to 854 college students

854 STUDENTS will receive scholarship grants under the City Government's Educational Scholarship Assistance Program [ESAP] on September 27.

According to LGU Scholarship Program Chief Jayson Caguiat, Mayor Edwin D. Santiago is expected to lead the awarding ceremony at the Heroes Hall to this new set of scholars whom are college students enrolled at universities operating in the city and nearby area.

"Mayor EdSa will personally distribute the 'certificate of eligibility' to our beneficiaries and their parents, they are from the city's 35 barangay" said Caguiat.

He explained that under the city's new guidelines, these students shall receive cash assistance for their enrollment but unlike before, the grants shall be awarded directly to their schools.



Santiago

The amount of scholarship grants they can receive varies from their grade; a scholar must maintain a grade of 80% as general weighted mean and shall voluntarily undertake and participate in at least one community service sponsored by the city government.

Full merit scholarships were also given to students enrolled in courses preferred by the city government such as midwifery, criminology, environmental science, and social work.

Since 2013, the LGU has supported more than three thousand poor but deserving college students through this program. This year, ESAP supports a total of 1,857 Fernandino students.

In an interview, Mayor EdSa believes that "the future lies on how educated the children are."

"Kapag pinag-uusapan ang Edukasyon lalo na sa ating Siyudad, palagi nating sinisikap na maging visionary o forward thinkers, what will happen 10 to 20 years from now? Hindi na local competition ang ating binibigyan pansin kundi global competition...paano nga ba makakasabay ang ating mga graduates sa international scene? Ito ang hamon sa gubyerno, mga educators at mga magulang."



Editorial

Pensionados

SOME 400 indigent senior citizens of Candaba, Pampanga were the recent recipients of "social pension" through the Bottom-Up Budgeting program of the national government. So reported *Sun-Star Pampanga* last Sunday.

Identified through the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction, the beneficiaries received P6,000 each.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development allocated P2.4 million, with a counterpart funding from the municipal budget, for the project.

Mayor Rene Maglanque personally handed the pensions to the beneficiaries and advised them to use the money wisely.

A noble deed, indeed, of Dinky Soliman's office and the LGU. Worthy of a long, prosperous life for the project proponents, as prescribed by the Good Book for those who respect and honor the elderly.

Two questions though bear asking.

One. Being a form of pension – meaning "a regular payment made during a person's retirement…" – what shall be the frequency, the amount too (P6,000 still?), of its availment by the identified indigent elderly?

It ain't no pension if it is just a one-shot dole-out.

Two. The DSWD allocated P2.4 million for the project. That amount totally covered the target beneficiaries: P6,000 x 400 = P2,400,000.

But it was further reported that a counterpart funding came from the municipal government. Where did that go, given that the DSWD funds were enough for the cash dole?

No, we don't smell anything fishy or *balo-balo* here, Candaba-sited notwithstanding. We would rather sense some lapses, in the reporting, principally from the local government.

Ask we then: *Anyare,* Mayor Maglanque?

Punto! Central Luzon

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Opinion

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Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Mabini on PNoy

"THE REVOLUTION failed because it was badly directed, because its leader won his post not with praiseworthy but with blameworthy acts, because instead of employing the most useful men of the nation he jealously discarded them. Believing that the advance of the people was no more than his own personal advance, he did not rate men according to their ability, character and patriotism but according to the degree of friendship or kinship binding him to them; and wanting to have favorites willing to sacrifice themselves for him, he showed himself lenient to their faults. Because he disdained the people, he could not but fall like an idol of wax melting in the heat of adversity. May we never forget such a terrible lesson learned at the cost of unspeakable sufferings!"

Apolinario Mabini's reflection on Emilio Aguinaldo referenced from *Mabini, A. (1935). The Philippine Revolution. Manila: National Library of the Philippines.*

The tremor that was *Heneral Luna* continues to send strong aftershocks, unearthing not only inconvenient but even damning truths long buried by those who hijacked history to ransom their tarnished image, to disinfect their blood-splattered likeness. To subvert, aye, to debase, history to personal hagiography.

Aftershocks from the Filipino past – like this the Sublime Paralytic's take on *El Presidente* – shaking the very foundations of his PNoy present.

As it is, Mabini here already makes a perfectly prescient statement on the current BS Aquino dispensation. Its paraphrase, with but the slightest substitutions, takes it to an in-your-face, if pedestrian, relevance. Thus:

"The *Daang Matuwid* failed because it was badly directed, because its leader won his post not with praiseworthy deeds by himself but out of emotions rising from the death of his sainted mother, because instead of employing the most useful men of the nation he vented his vengeful rage against them, associated as they were with the predecessor he abominated. Believing that the advance of the people is subservient to his own personal advance, he did not rate men according to their ability, character and patriotism but according to the degree of friendship, read: *kaklase* and *kabarilan,* or kinship, read: *kamag-anak,* binding him to them; and wanting to have favorites willing to sacrifice themselves for him, read: Purisima, Abaya, Alcala and Torres, he showed himself lenient to their faults. Because he actually disdained those whom he flatteringly called his "boss," he could not but fall like an idol of wax melting in the heat of adversity. May we never forget such a terrible lesson learned at the cost of unspeakable sufferings!"

Indeed, the horrific lessons of the Luneta massacre of Hong Kong tourists, Supertyphoon Yolanda and Mamasapano, of PDAF and DAP, of Customs' preferential treatment of big-time smugglers and harassment of OFWs, of the daily Calvary that is the MRT, and the hourly hell that is EDSA. To cite only the top-of-mind issues of misgovernance, of misfeasance, if not malfeasance.

Speaking of Aguinaldo over a century ago, Mabini verily defined the BS, Aquino. In real time.

There's one more affirmation of that truism, "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

Of that obscure Irish saying denying the present and the future, attesting only to the past happening over and over, again and again.

Of the continuing applicability of Santayana's caveat of doom to those who do not learn from the lessons of history.

Of the infallibility of that Marxist maxim of history repeating itself: first as tragedy, second as farce.

Reading Mabini after reliving Luna, albeit so shortly and cinematically, it makes total sense why we are a nation doomed, why we are a people damned.

So what?

As long as we are the nation of AlDub.

TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

Source: www.kahimyang.info

Diosdado P. Macapagal is born in Lubao, Pampanga

ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1910, Diosdado Pangan Macapagal, 9th President of the Philippines serving from 1961 to 1965, was born in Lubao, Pampanga.

Known as the "Poor Boy from Lubao", Macapagal, who finished law at the University of Santo Tomas through the assistance from a friend, topped the 1936 Bar examinations with a score of 89.95 percent.

He was the father of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 14th President of the Philippines.

President Macapagal earned his Master of Laws degree in 1941, a Doctor of Civil Law degree in 1947, and a Ph.D. in Economics in 1957.

Among his most significant career achievements was the abolition of tenancy accompanying the land reform program in the Agricultural Land Reform Code of 1963 which underscored his endeavor to fight mass poverty.

Macapagal changed the Philippine Independence Day from July 4 to June 12 which symbolized his policy of promoting and achieving true independence from foreign domination. He placed the peso on the free currency exchange market, and liberalized foreign exchange and import controls.

Macapagal also served as vice president in 1957 in the administration of President Carlos P. Garcia. He defeated Garcia in his reelection bid in the 1961 elections.

He also became representative of the first district of Pampanga in 1949 and was consistently selected by the Congressional Press Club as one of the Ten Outstanding Congressmen during his tenure. He was selected as "the Best Lawmaker" in his second term in Congress.

He retired from politics following his 1965 loss to President Ferdinand Marcos.

Macapagal, who devoted much of his time to reading and writing books in his retirement, died of heart failure, pneumonia and renal complications on April 21, 1997. He was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

*Achievement is largely the product of steadily raising one's levels of aspiration and expectation. –**Jack Nicklaus***



Napag-uusapan Lang

Felix M. Garcia

Ing 'Poor Boy' ning Lubao

(Kasuglung ning milabas a isyu)

AT NUNG ATIN la mang
Bubusbus canitang ya'pang macalucluc,
Ya'ytang king RCA,
A nung nu're ngara dimanda na cabud;
Abias ning gubyernu
Gewa nang otsenta sentimus ing salup,
King agia mang iti
Inangkat da yatang migit nang mamesus;
Nanung pekibat na?
Burian ku pa nganang king suculan lungub,
Kesa king akit cung
Ding cacung memalen mate la keng danup;

Bilang Presidente,
Tungculan cu ngana itang magdesisyun
Dikil king nanu mang
Bage mangailangan malaguang atensyun;
Obat e cu yutus
Ibenta nang mura ning Administrasyun,
Ngening ding memalen
Atilu reti king gipit a situasyun?
Nung para mu cacu,
Ipamie cu namu ngana pang tinuglung
Nung yang ipagcalam
Ning calma cung mayap king tacdang panaun.

Angga na king miras
At mepupus ganap ing keyang tungculan,
E ya meging 'corrupt'
Ing lagyung DIOSDADO PANGAN MACAPAGAL,
At waman ala yang
Manhattan, Mansion at saku-sakung dolyar
A macapanilas
Caring mangaragul a Bangku Switzerland,
Ya e mika-mantsa
O meculung uli ning capanecasan,
Uling e mig-imbut
Magpaca-cualta king e na pipawasan.

Inya naman angga
Na king dinulung ya king marimlang aun,
E mebawas ditman
Ing sablang capurian a keya miputung;
Pablasang balu nang
Mistula ning Balen king y Apung Dadong
Kikilalanan de
Gelingan pati na king aliwang nasyun,
A sucat ibilang
Caring mayap diling linucluc Pecapun,
Ning insa' mang lipi
Keng cayapan talan at mugit keng Timun!

Iti, macuyad yang
Talambie ning meging mapuri nang anak
Ning balen tang' tibuan
A sale ning santing, ning leguan at tindag;
Yan king capilan man,
Keti Capampangan larawan yang maslag
A e na mabating
A kislap nung wari king Tala ning Munag;
Modelu yang sukat
Taluntunan king bie ing dalan nang dilpac
Ban bucas, macadua
Atin pang anti'ya a lunsut king labuad!

(Balen, malapit na
Naman ing alalan, a nu'ing Pamuntuk
Ning bansa a sukat
Yalal ban keta ya ing tutuking lukluk,
Kalili ning ngeni
A'yala kung balung paniglon tang' lubus;
Oren, karing atlu
A milulutlutan ban keta yang lumput,
E kaya masanting
Ilele ta'no ring masyas a galudgud;
At king alang musing
Karin magpamisan ban alang kasambut?!)



DOE wants people to decide on BNPP rehab

Plebiscite eyed

By Ernie Esconde

MORONG, Bataan- The Department of Energy on Friday considered the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Napot Point, Morong town as still safe but leaves it to the people whether to rehabilitate it or not.

DOE Usec Donato Marcos said an inter-agency core committee on nuclear energy composed of DOE, Department of Science and Technology and National Power Corporation, has been revived to study a clear policy direction of government regarding BNPP.

"DOE for its part has a standing and clear policy direction that BNPP is not only a power concern and energy issue but a national concern and issue. We want that it be submitted to a national consensus, possibly through a plebiscite," the undersecretary said.

He said that the inter-agency group that was constituted in 2009 met Friday morning after it stopped functioning before 2011 when the Fukusima nuclear plant in Japan was damaged by an earthquake. He said the interest of the people in nuclear energy declined because of the Fukusima tragedy.

"Now, people are seeing that nuclear energy is clean and so the possibility of opening BNPP into a nuclear plant or other options is under study. The important thing is that the Bataan plant is still here and so research although will take time will go on," Marcos said.

He said that the revived committee is collating data gathered by the old committee since 2011. "We are still in the process of study on what direction to decide and one undertaken is information dissemination and communication campaign to the people.

He said the inter-agency core group has started the information dissemination to the village where BNPP is located.

Marcos said the rehabilitation of BNPP was estimated to cost $1 billion in four years. He said constructing a new one needs $7 billion to $10 billion.

"BNPP can still be rehabilitated because more than 51 percent of nuclear power plants much older than BNPP are still operating. I think it is still safe because studies on it took 11 years," the undersecretary said.

Former Pangasinan Congressman Mark Cojuangco said that the public has not heard much of nuclear energy.

"Nuclear energy has many benefits like cheap power, no greenhouse gases and carbon monoxide emission during operation. It has no pollution, no coal ash, heavy metals and other impurities in coal ash," he said.

Cojuangco said it should be explained to the people that nuclear power is completely clean. He claimed that commercial nuclear power is the safest source of electricity in the world.

Engr. Mauro Marcelo, Napocor department head, said electric power in Korea and other countries is cheap because of the use of nuclear energy.

"In 1986, BNPP was mothballed but we should not miss the opportunity now or else suffer massive brownout like in 1991. I think this plant is the only one that could turn electric power cheaper," Marcelo said.

Napocor chief executive officer Maria Gladys Sta. Rita said government has settled its debt of $2.3 billion corresponding to expenses in the construction of BNPP.

Schools hold Family Day

BALANGA CITY - Most elementary schools in 11 towns and one city in Bataan, both public and private celebrated Family Day on Thursday.

At the St. Joseph School of Balanga, for example, parents joined their children in a parade from the school to a barangay covered court. Many children from kindergarten to Grade 6 carried colorful balloons.

Parents and children wore T-shirts, color depending on the grade level of their children, with the inscription "Our Family is a Circle of Strength; Founded on Faith, Joined in Love and Kept by God Together Forever!"

A 6-year-old boy in preparatory school said he loves his tatay (grandfather), mama (grandmother), mommy and daddy. He embraced his mother to show he cares for her.

A group of children with their respective mothers and fathers performed a dance number to the loud applause of the big audience.

Mothers were attentive of their children as they had snack from a fast food chain. Children, however, are children who enjoyed playing tirelessly as if unmindful of the program going on.

School Principal Alicia Rueda told parents that God Almighty should always be on top of the family. "Families are happy when they pray and eat together," she said.

–Ernie Esconde

Koreano-phobia emerging in AC

FROM PAGE 1

Most of them, despite image of unfriendliness, are kind. But more locals are developing Koreano-phobia amid reports they, awash with cash, get away with wrongdoings.

Sources who asked not to be named in fear for their safety, cited recent incidents allegedly involving Koreans in this freeport.

One source said that only three weeks ago, an Aeta working in Philexcel Industrial Park was on his motorbike at about 3 p.m. when a car being driven by a Korean hit him.

"He was drunk but what's troubling is that when he was down, the car was seen again hitting him and so he died," the source said.

The Korean reportedly paid the victim's family P14,000 during the wake held in Barangay Sapang Bato.

Another source said that last August, two male Koreans were seen to have parked late into the night at the Jolllibee facility near the Roxas statue along Roxas highway.

"They were observing at the parking area and then boarded their car and drove off to a vacant lot nearby. Moments later the body of a woman wearing tube blouse and shorts was seen on the lot," said the witness.

Punto tried to get information on these from the security department of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) but got different versions of the two cases.

Personnel from the investigation section of CDC security department referred Punto to the traffic section.

CDC traffic chief Jesus Marquez confirmed the case of the woman found dead, but cited probers as saying that the victim's husband, reportedly a security guard at Philexcel, had admitted that his wife was suffering from depression and was wont to jumping from running jeepneys.

This, even as Marquez said his office had no record of a male Aeta being run over by a vehicle being driven by a Korean.

The sources, however, insisted on the veracity of their claims. They said they knew the witnesses personally.

"The Aeta who was run over is the son-in-law of Katus. The wake was even held in Sapang Bato, the source insisted.

Last week, a Korean businessman named Park was gunned down "gangland style" by a single assailant inside his office at the so-called Korea Town in Barangay Anunas here.

Members of the local Korean community said the murder has sent a "chilling effect" among them, even as they speculated that it was "business-related."

Police are still pursuing angles to lead to the motive to the murder and the perpetrators.

SC orders CdC execs to comment on disbarment case

FROM PAGE 1

The disbarment case stemmed from a complaint filed by South Korean investor/locator Kim Eung Il a.k.a. Steve Kim for "grave misconduct and grave coercion" after the CDC terminated his lease agreement (LA) with the state-run firm and took over his Holywood Park Development Corp. (HPDC) property despite a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the local court.

The disbarment case was filed shortly after Tugade and Manwong were haled to the Ombudsman for the same offenses.

Kim is the president of HPDC. He also pioneered the hot air balloon fiesta here to drum up attention and support for the then Pinatubo devastated Clark ecozone in 1994.

According to Kim, CDC officers led by Tugade "gravely abused their authority and put the law into their own hands by physically ejecting me and preventing me from my entering my office without due process and the absence of a court order."

TRO refused

It can be recalled that CDC officers led by Tugade refused to adhere to a TRO issued by the Executive Judge of the Angeles City RTC on the morning of January 12.

The TRO was meant to "maintain the status quo ante" ordering the CDC to "desist from entering the leased premises and taking over the operation and any further action that will be detrimental to the right of the petitioners."

Court Sheriff Vicente Sicat Jr. tried to serve the TRO through the CDC Legal Department on the same day but it was ignored.

It can also be recalled that at around 3 pm on the same day, the CDC forcibly took over Kim's leased premises and prevented him from entering his office. Armed security guards as well as CDC police assisted in the take-over.

To further aggravate the situation, Kim said the CDC "directly negotiated" with his HPDC tenants and entered into a new lease agreement with them despite the absence of a court order lawfully terminating the lease agreement with HPDC.

Kim's legal counsel, Tricia S. Santos, said: "While the government has the duty and privilege to enforce the law, it should not consider itself above it."

She said foreign investors come to the Philippines "because of the representations of the government that they can enjoy a favorable business climate in the country."

She pointed out that "the tenants of HDPC or occupants of retirement facilities built and managed by HPDC are 100-percent retired foreigners.

"Unfortunately for them, they became witness to the kind of enforcement that CDC is capable of when heavily armed men and other security personnel suddenly showed up at the office," Santos said.

'Above the law'

She said: "What was clearly established from the events that transpired is that aside from the almost one-sided terms and conditions of doing business at Clark under Tugade's administration is that CDC is not afraid of the law because it acts like it is above the law by showing no qualms in defying a direct order issued by the court."

Kim said he is a legitimate businessman and investor in this freeport and poured in almost $8 million to develop his leased area at Holywood Park near the Sapang Bato Gate of this freeport.

He said he was a victim of selective justice because HPDC is far more developed than any other property in the area.

Kim feared that CDC singled him out especially after he agreed to organize the Lubao Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Kim filed the disbarment case at the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) – Commission on Bar Discipline.

Sought for his side, Tugade shrugged off the complaints.

"That's okay," Tugade said. "It's his right (to file a complaint) as much as it is also my obligation to protect the interest of the government," Tugade added.

2014 criminal case vs. ex-LTO chief gathering dust at dOj

FROM PAGE 1

Complaints of malicious mischief, grave threats and grave coercion against Torres and her alleged cohorts were filed in October 2014 at the DOJ, by Luisita farmers assisted by lawyer Jobert Pahilga of the Sentro para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo (Sentra).

Torres is embroiled in a sugar smuggling scandal at the Bureau of Customs (BOC), where she allegedly namedropped the President for the release of tons of smuggled sugar. She claimed that she leased lands at the Hacienda Luisita and that they planted together.

"Malacanang and even DAR Sec. delos Reyes keep on harping empty words distancing themselves from Virgie Torres. But they are all actually complicit in her illegal transactions," said Rudy Corpuz, vice-chairperson of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (Ambala).

Aambala is UMA's local affiliate in Tarlac province.

Corpuz noted that Torres had already admitted that she was into leasing lands in Hacienda Luisita, a practice which victimizes supposed farmworker-beneficiaries of the 2012 Supreme Court decision for total land distribution in the controversial sugar estate.

"We believe that the DAR has complete knowledge of Torres's transactions in Luisita. According to the victims, even local DAR lawyers and employees go out of their way to personally facilitate transactions and even the violent eviction of farmers and destruction of their food crops to make way for Torres's sugarcane aryendo with the Cojuangco-Aquinos," said Lozande.

Ambala noted that "Torres is practically a resident of Barangay Mapalacsiao in Hacienda Luisita, which she frequents because she has effective control over at least 200 hectares of land in this barangay alone."

"Torres also allegedly maintains a garage of heavy equipment and a storage house for farm inputs also within Mapalacsiao," Ambala added.

Corpuz also said Torres and DAR officials are apparently backed by "goons of the Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco) owned by the President's kin, and by the police and military officers under their command."

He noted that "even the pro-landlord Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and its Extension with Reforms (CARPER) prohibit the sale or lease of farmlots allocated through land reform, for a ten-year holding period."

–Ding Cervantes

House probe on rampant sugar smuggling backed

FROM PAGE 1

secretary-general of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW), UMA's local affiliate in Negros Island, where more than half of the country's total sugar output is produced.

The House resolution was filed by Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Neri Colmenares.

"We back Rep. Colmenares' initiative to investigate sugar smuggling, long considered by industry stakeholders and even ordinary sugar workers as a serious matter that government should immediately address," said Lozande.

Colmenares' resolution noted that "the reported series of smuggling happened and swelled into an alarming level in such a short period of time, amounting to an estimated total of P140 million during the second quarter of 2015, not including what may have passed through Bureau of Customs (BOC) monitoring, as admitted by Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina."

UMA observed that sugar smuggling became even more pronounced despite purported "tighter government policy" through the implementation of the recently-enacted Sugar Industry Development Act (SIDA) of 2015.

"Even before Pres. Aquino signed the SIDA last April, UMA had already forewarned concerned Congress and Senate committees that come 2015 sugar smuggling in the country would have certainly gotten out of hand. We have long expressed this point in several of our position papers precisely criticizing the rationale behind the sugar bills which eventually became the SIDA," said Lozande.

UMA decried government's "flawed framework in protecting the sugar industry and its complete lack of will to challenge the very evil that has made the current crisis imminent – liberalization in agriculture."

UMA noted that "only through the repudiation of unequal neoliberal trade and economic treaties such as the GATT-WTO and the Asean Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), and the implementation of genuine land reform can the crisis in the sugar industry and in the whole sector of agriculture can decisively be resolved."

UMA also blasted certain government agencies for corruption in handling sugar funds.

"If (government) cannot as of yet be relied upon to pursue the aforementioned solutions, it should at least try to look into the alleged cases of corruption (in) irregularly hefty bonuses of executives in the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), or into the reported anomalies in the implementation of the SAP (Social Amelioration Program for sugar workers)," Lozande also said.

In a position paper submitted to the Senate last year, UMA said "it is very timely as well for the Senate to probe the extent of sugar smuggling in the country and set up ways to pre-empt its escalation especially come 2015 when sugar tariffs for imported sugar, as dictated by rapacious global neoliberal policies, finally becomes zero rated."

In his resolution, Colmenares noted that "the sale of illegally imported sugar shall only be possible if the SRA approves for the auction of the confiscated shipments of sugar."

UMA pointed out that with reported corruption at the SRA, the public must also be made aware of how government utilizes proceeds from smuggled sugar.

"If these shipments are not returned to Thailand, burned, destroyed or thrown out to sea, then sugar workers would not want to hear that funds culled from these illegal shipments have disappeared in thin air – only to bankroll Roxas and the Liberal Party's bid for six more tortuous years along Daang Matuwid," said Lozande.

UMA quoted Anakpawis Partylist Rep. Fernando Hicap as saying that "Torres will not be brave enough to pull this daring stunt (at the BOC) without any connection in high level government offices."

"We cannot discount the fact that some unscrupulous officials running in next year's elections are ordering Torres to collect campaign funds from sugar smuggling," said Hicap.

–Ding Cervantes



The Gossipmiller

Cesar Pambid

Mikael Daez dinedma ang gimik nina Dennis at Jennylyn

NAGSALITA na sina Dennis Trillo at Jennylyn Mercado sa isyung nagkasakitan sina Dennis at Mikael Daez sa taping ng My Faithful Husband. Si Mikael na lang ang walang comment at ibig sabihin nito, hindi ginawang big deal ang isyu na inisip na baka gimik lang yun ng dalawa.

Sabi ni Jennylyn, magkaibigan at professional sina Dennis at Mikael at parte lang ng trabaho ang nangyari.

Ayon naman kay Dennis, "Aksidente lang 'yun, hindi sinasadya. Bugso lang ng damdamin dahil sa matinding eksena. Hindi kami nagkapikunan, nag-sorry agad ako kay Mikael. Hindi dapat nangyari 'yun, pero naayos agad ang lahat," wika ni Dennis.

Anyway, kinakabahan man, excited pa rin si Dennis sa reaction ng tao sa premiere night (October 4) at regular showing ng Felix Manalo (Oct.7). Malaking pelikula at malaking role ang ipinagkatiwala sa kanya ng Viva Films at ni Direk Joel Lamangan, kaya nenenerbyos siya sa magiging pagtanggap ng tao.

Mayor bistek umaming naging karelasyon si Kris Aquino

NAGPA-LUNCH si Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista sa entertainment press na ang birthday ay July, August at September nu'ng Saturday at do'n na rin namin hiningi ang reaksyon niya sa sinabi ni Kris na kasali na ulit siya sa pelikulang gagawin nito sa Star Cinema para sa MMFF.

"Kasi 'di ba, nagsusyuting ng Etiquette (For Mistresses) si Kris tapos nagkakasakit na siya, so nu'ng una, buo na 'yung pelikula pero wala pang script, 'yung cast pa lang, and then eventually, dahil nagkakasakit nga, ayaw na niyang gawin 'yung movie.

"And then, na-pursuade siya na ituloy 'yung movie, pero iba 'yung cast kasi malapit na ang eleksyon, eh, di ba? Tapos biglang natuloy 'yung pelikula and supposedly parang si Derek (Ramsay) na yata.

"Pero nu'ng Tuesday, nagmiting kami ni Tita Malou (Santos) and tuloy na 'yung movie, kasama na ako ulit," mahabang kuwento ni Bistek.

"Sabi ko nga, okey lang kung hindi ako kasama pero si Tita Malou mismo ang nagsabi na 'we want you there, you're the original cast, hindi puwedeng… I was informed din na sa Oct. 9 magre-resume na 'yung syuting pero hindi ko pa alam kung kasama na ako do'n," patuloy pa niya.

Nagpapasalamat naman si Herbet sa Star Cinema for considering him again to be part of the project.

"I'm thankful sa Star Cinema dahil they still consider me to be part of the movie. Kahit na maliit lang 'yung role okey na basta ang importante, may raket, basta may pelikula," natatawa niyang pahayag.

Eh, bakit ba pinalitan na ang title ng kanilang movie?

"Yung Mr. & Mrs. Split is a working title. Eh, si Kris naman nakilala din sa salitang love, love, love. I hope din na magtuloy yung Viva at Star Cinema sa co-production dahil Viva is my manager," sagot pa niya.

Nagbigay din ng reaksyon si Bistek sa tanong ng press kung totoo bang nagkabalikan na sila ni Kris.

"Hindi, eh! Ha-ha-ha!" reaksyon agad niya.

Bakit, naging sila ba talaga?

"'Di ba, sinabi niya 'yon… pero walang…" bitin niyang pahayag na sinundan ng malakas na tawa.

Maricel Soriano endorses Mar Roxas

DAHIL napag-usapan na rin ang mga magagandang mangyayari sa taong 2016, tinanong si Maricel, na isa sa mga malalaking bituin na sumuporta sa matagumpay na KeriBeks gay congress ni Korina Sanchez-Roxas noong nakaraang Agosto, kung sinong presidential candidate ang kanyang susuportahan sa nalalapit na national elections.



Mikael Daez

"Of course si Mar," diretsahang sagot ng orihinal na Taray Queen. "Bakit si Mar? Eh gusto ko, eh! Bakit mas marunong pa kayo sa akin? Hahahaha. Pero seriously, naniniwala ako sa kanya at sa kanyang kakayahan."

Ayon kay Marya, nagkaroon siya ng oportunidad na makilala si Mar nang personal at makausap ito sa ilang mga okasyon.

"Hindi siya magnanakaw at hindi siya maramot. Naunawaan ni Mar ang sitwasyon ng iba't ibang mga tao. Siguradong magkakaroon ng maraming disente at maayos na trabaho ang mga tao. Ang mga call center na lang. Madami ang nagkatrabaho dahil dito at alam nating malaki ang role ni Mar kung bakit maunlad ang mga call center sa atin."

Impressed din ang premyadong aktres sa credentials ni Mar.

"Cartwheel at tumbling ako sa dami ng mga nagawa ni Mar. Ako nga, madami ang humahamak sa akin dahil hindi ako nakapagtapos ng pag-aaral pero sa kabila ng aking kahirapan, ay nabuhay ko ang mga kapatid at mga anak ko. Eh, achievement ko lang 'yan ha, eh, paano pa 'yung mga nagawa ni Mar? Nakakaloka talaga siya," pahayag ni Maria.

Samantala, pinarangalan ang Diamond Star na si Maricel Soriano sa katatapos lamang na 63rd FAMAS Awards bilang isa sa mga anim na Iconic Movie Queens Of Philippine Cinema kung saan kasama niya sa espesyal na citation na ito sina Gloria Romero, Susan Roces, Dawn Zulueta, Sarah Geronimo at Nora Aunor.

Habang nasa ceremony, hindi mapigilan ng award-winning actress ang kagalakan para sa rekognisyon na iginawad sa kanya.

"Wala akong maisip na salita upang ipakita at ipadama sa iba ang kaligahayan na nararamdaman ko," sabi ni Maricel.

"I feel so blessed and humbled to be given the honor to stand beside such great actresses. Sobra akong inspired dahil sa award na ito na magpatuloy gumawa ng mga pelikula sa darating na mga taon."

Nabanggit din ni Maricel na ipagdiriwang niya ang kanyang ika-45th na anibersaryo sa industriya sa 2016.

"Akalain ninyo na tatagal ako ng ganito? Talagang malaking blessing ito galing kay Papa God. Madami pa akong exciting na mga plan sa mga darating na taon, lalo na sa 2016. Hinding hindi ako titigil dahil mahal na mahal ko ang ginagawa ko."

Fish holiday impacts village

By Ernie Esconde

MARIVELES, Bataan- The Sisiman Fishing Operators Association, Inc. (SFOAI) in a seaside village here on Thursday called on government and rallying commercial fishermen to come to terms to put a stop to fish holidays that affect its members.

"Patuloy ang aming pangingisda subalit nagkaka-problema kapag natapat ang dating ng mga mangingisda sa fish holiday. Sa dalawang araw na hindi nakapagpabulong at nabenta ang isda, tungo ito sa pagkabulok," SFOI President Dalisay Cruz said.

Cruz said SFOI counts 700 members in 37 fishing boats in Sisiman, a picturesque fishing village in Mariveles. Most of the big fishing vessels sell their catch in Navotas, Metro Manila where fish holidays were declared.

"Maawa na sana ang pamahalaan at huwag na sanang magkaroon ng fish holiday. Marami ngang huling isda pero kapag inabutan ng fish holiday, wala ring mangyayari kapag nabulok," she said.

Many members of SFOI used to fish at the disputed Scarborough Shoal but shifted to other areas like in fishing grounds near Palawan after the Chinese Coastguard harassed fishermen bombarded some fishing vessels with water cannons.

Fraudulent SSS claim gets man 4 years in jail

THE Quezon City Regional Trial Court has sentenced a claimant attempting to obtain Social Security System (SSS) disability benefits for pulmonary tuberculosis using spurious medical documents to an imprisonment of over four years on top of paying a P5,000 fine.

Regional Trial Court Judge Charito B. Gonzales found Orlando P. Tabadero guilty beyond reasonable doubt for violating the Social Security Law and ordered his imprisonment for a minimum of six months up to four years and two months.

Tabadero did "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously make false representation/s" using a fake medical certificate and x-ray results showing he was "diagnosed with Pulmonary TB when in truth and in fact he was not examined by any radiologist or physician… and the same were only made for the purpose of obtaining payment for his disability claim," the six-page decision said.

SSS Chief Legal Counsel and Senior Vice President for Legal Services Division Voltaire P. Agas said the court case, which was handled by SSS lawyer Franco E. Bustamante, serves as a potent reminder of the legal consequences of trying to deceive the pension fund of undeserved benefits.

In March 2004, Tabadero filed a disability benefit claim at the SSS Biñan branch supported by a medical certificate showing a final diagnosis of pulmonary TB and x-ray results issued by a certain St. Ignatius Medical Clinic. The SSS did not process the claim on suspicions that it was fraudulent.

In his testimony, SSS fraud investigator Rolando R. Baldeo said Tabadero himself admitted that the doctor indicated in the medical certificate has not examined him. Moreover, the SSS discovered that the St. Ignatius Medical Clinic, the alleged source of the x-ray results, does not exist.

The accused defended himself by denying any participation in preparing the documents used for his claim, apart from attaching his photo and affixing his signature. Tabadero claimed that he was approached by a group of people led by a man named "Rocky," who introduced himself as a retired SSS employee and offered him the opportunity to make money by filing a claim for partial disability.

Tabadero said "Rocky" then brought him to a clinic, made him wait outside, handed him documents, and instructed him to file his claim at SSS Biñan. But the court noted that Tabadero failed to show any evidence for his testimony, and even if third parties were involved, he still agreed to file the fraudulent claim.

"Since denial and alibi are so easy to concoct and fabricate, the same cannot prevail over the positive and credible testimony of the prosecution witness that the accused committed the crime," the judge said, adding that "one who is found in possession of a forged document and who used and uttered it is presumed to be the forger."

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