

HONG KONG NEWS

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THANK YOU. Three Hongkongers are honored for being outstanding employers to their domestic workers.

5K employers on POLO watch list



THE PUNISHER COMETH. President Duterte walks to the plenary hall of Congress to deliver his first State of the Nation Address. He promised to intensify his "war" against illegal recruiters, lengthen the validity of passports, and create a department for OFWs. (King Rodriguez/PPD)

By Philip C. Tubeza

THERE are nearly 5,000 Hong Kong employers in the "watch list" of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office's (POLO) and they cannot easily hire Filipino domestic helpers.

According to POLO records, there were 4,990 employers included in the watch list as of July 27. Their number increased by around 100 since Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre announced that he was going after "terminators," or employers who frequently terminate their FDHs.

Dela Torre urged domestic workers who have abusive employers to go to the POLO if they want them included in the list. "Kahit saang source yan---Internet or Facebook---paggusto po ipablacklist, pumunta ka rito at sign an affidavit kasi hindi pwede hearsay lang. Baka malintikan

tayo," Dela Torre said in an interview.

"Pag meron ng affidavit, ipapasok na namin sa system na watchlisted na siya," he added.

Dela Torre said that an employer includ-

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FIGHT. An FDH in Discovery Bay gets more than \$400,000 after standing up for her rights in accident with neighbor's dog.

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WOW. The remake of Encantadia, the popular GMA telefantasya, trends on Twitter.



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FDHs urge Malacanang to allow direct hiring

By Philip C. Tubeza

INSTEAD of holding the usual protest action, overseas Filipino workers here held a "unity march" in Central to mark the first State of the National Address of President Duterte and call for reforms.

Dolores Balladares-Pelaez, United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-HK) chair, said migrant Filipinos had already seen the initial reforms of the Duterte Administration and were eager to see more.

"Kailangan makita ang mga konkretong pagbabago na ito na magbibigay ng ginhawa sa buhay ng mga OFW," Balladares-Pelaez said.

The migrants urged Duterte to allow direct hiring, abolish the overseas employment certificate (OEC), increase the budget for legal assistance for OFWs, stop the collection of airport terminal fees in Manila, exempt the goods OFWs bring home from taxes, save Mary Jane Veloso, and give voter's IDs to OFWs without delay.

They also urged Duterte to make Pag-Ibig, OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration), and SSS (Social Security System) membership voluntary for migrant workers.

In his address, Duterte acceded to one of the OFW requests--the extension of the validity of Philippine passports to 10 years.

"Marami naman tayong nasaksihan na positibong ginawa ng Administrasyong Duterte," Balladares-Pelaez said.

Garry Martinez, chair of the mi-

grants group Migrante International, said that, through Labor Sec. Silvestre Bello III, the Duterte administration has "demonstrated a no-nonsense hands-on approach for an emergency mass repatriation of tens of thousands of stranded OFWs in Saudi Arabia."

Martinez urged the administration to focus on the immediate recall of all erring embassy officials; the quick resolution of illegal recruitment and traf-



OFWs in Central

ficking cases filed by countless OFW victims at the Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC); and the scrapping of unnecessary fees that are viewed by our OFWs as nothing but "legalized kotong", such as the OEC, among others.

"It is time the government reviews past governments' recourse to chronically seek job markets abroad in exchange for remittances to the detriment of OFWs and their families. This cycle has got to end," Martinez said.

Duterte: War vs illegal recruiters to intensify

By Maia Lopez and Betty Santos

SAYING it was on the same level with his fight against illegal drugs, President Duterte promised to intensify his "war" against illegal recruiters and human traffickers.

In his first State of the Nation Address, Duterte also called on Congress to create a single department that would handle the affairs of overseas Filipino workers and extend the validity of Philippine passports to 10 years.

"We shall intensify — Mainit talaga ako dito. I place it in parity with drugs---we shall intensify our war against human traffickers and illegal recruiters that prey on our migrants," Duterte told a joint session of Congress on July 25.

"To help ensure that the hard-earned money of the Filipinos overseas are put into productive use, a mandatory financial education for all migrants and their communities will be pursued with incentives to encourage entrepreneurship among them," he added.

Duterte said he wanted a separate department created to address the issues of overseas Filipino workers.

"I am now also asking Congress to consider drawing up bills consolidating and merging agencies and offices having to do with overseas Filipinos, to have a department that shall focus on and quickly respond to their problems and concerns," the President said.

Records from the Department of Foreign Affairs show there are about 10 million OFWs worldwide.

Remittances from January to August 2015 have reached as much as \$16.21 bil-



Duterte delivers his first SONA

(By King Rodriguez/PPD)

lion (P764 billion).

Duterte said he has also tasked Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III to create a one stop shop for OFWs.

"I want him to rent a building that will be dedicated for OFW concerns. All the clearances that they will need will be housed there," Duterte said.

"So, doon lang (ang OFW) mag-ikot sa isang building. Ang Pilipino, hindi na siya mag-punta doon sa Statistics. Hindi na siya punta doon sa ano, diyan, diyan sa opisina. NBI clearance is doon na ninyo ibigay. Lahat na doon na," he said.

"At kung dapat, may-awa si Bello, pakainin niyo yung mga tao doon. Lalo na sa probinsya. Pagtingin ninyo taga-probinsya, finish it right away. Make use of the computer. O kapag hindi niyo ginamit yan, tapon na lang ninyo," he added.

A party-list lawmaker has already filed a bill seeking to create an OFW department.

The proposed agency, to be called Department of Migration and Development

(DMD), will ensure a "unified, fast, and coherent approach in extending government services to Filipinos overseas and their families at home," according to ACTS-OFW party-list Rep. Aniceto Bertiz III.

Bertiz's House Bill No. 192 serves as the counterpart measure of the Senate bill filed by Senator Cynthia Villar, which also proposes the creation of a separate department for OFWs.

The proposed DMD will plan, develop, and manage the national migration and development agenda in consultation with various stakeholders, to promote the protection, safety, development and support of and for OFWs and their families.

Duterte also asked Congress to amend a 20-year-old law to pave the way for the extension of the validity of Philippine passports to 10 years.

The Philippine Passport Act of 1996 says regular passports "shall be valid for a period of five years."

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Domestic worker in \$1.6M drug case

A domestic worker is under investigation after she was caught collecting a parcel that contained part of the \$1.67 million illegal drug shipment intercepted at the Hong Kong International airport.

Customs officers arrested the woman, aged 31, after she collected the parcel in Tsim Sha Tsui. The parcel had 800 grams of cocaine.

It was part of three shipments intercepted at the Air Mail Centre, Hong Kong International Airport, on July 17, 22 and 23.

Customs officers inspected three air mail parcels arriving from Brazil which were declared as containing handicraft products, books and a Bluetooth device.

On examination, about 800 grams, 600 grams and 190 grams of suspected cocaine were found concealed inside eight pieces of handicraft products, the back covers of six books and a speaker respectively.

On July 25, Customs officers arrested a man after he collected the two parcels declared as containing books and a Bluetooth device in Cheung Sha Wan.

The following day, Customs officers arrested the domestic worker when she picked up the package that was supposed to contain handicraft products.

The arrested man, who claimed to be an account manager, and the woman were allowed to bail pending the results of the investigation.

Peter Castillo

October jobs forum in Bayanihan for nurses

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) will hold a forum in October for nurses working as domestic helpers here in Hong Kong so that they can learn about more advantageous jobs in other countries, Labor Attaché Jalilo dela Torre said.

Dela Torre said the forum would be held on October 9, and not in September as reported earlier, because some participants will be available only on that date.

“We will have it on October 9 at most probably sa Bayanihan Centre sa Kennedy Town,” he said in an interview.

Dela Torre said the nursing forum would include registered migration agents from Australia and the Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI) so that they could brief the nurses on employment opportunities in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and Qatar.

He clarified that there will be no on-the-spot recruitment at the forum, which is intended to give nurses information where they could get good paying nursing jobs.

“We will just inform them about the terms and conditions of work in these countries. Bahala na sila magcommuni-



Bayanihan Centre

cate (with the placement agencies in the Philippines),” Dela Torre said.

He said members of PASEI were going to Germany in September to check the job opportunities for nurses there. The entry level salary for nurses in Germany could reach P100,000 a month.

“Pupunta yata sila sa Germany this September so, by October, they would know. Maganda ito kasi nurses talaga ang trabaho,” Dela Torre said.

Dela Torre earlier said they decided to

hold a nursing forum after finding out that there are many registered Filipino nurses with the minimum two years experience who are working as domestic helpers here.

“May sobrang two years (experience). Hindi ko nga alam kung bakit pumunta pa (dito). Sana nag-apply na lang sa ibang labor market kasi may two years ka na. Nakikita ko sa profile nila,” he said.

For those who want to take the nursing board exam, Dela Torre said that could happen next year.

DOLE to put up one-stop shop for OFW requirements

By Peter Arevalo



BELLO

FOR easy and speedy access to government service, Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III said the Department of Labor and Employment will establish a one-stop shop to assist overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in securing the requirements they need for jobs abroad.

“The one-stop shop is part of the efforts of the department to realize the directives of President Rodrigo R. Duterte to make the services of government agencies accessible to Filipinos who are currently working or planning to work overseas,” Bello said.

Bello said the one-stop shop will include several services which aim to make the issuance and validation process of documentary requirements easier and more convenient for OFWs, especially for returning migrant workers.

Aside from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), other government agencies like the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the National Bureau of Investigation

(NBI) will also be part of the one-stop shop, Bello said.

Bello said that Filipino workers applying for work overseas should be able to get all the clearances they need, including those required by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the police authorities, and health services in just one place.

He added that, aside from shortening the time to process their documents, the one-stop shop will also reduce the expenses of OFWs since they can avail of government services in just one location.

President Duterte had directed all government agencies to fast-track and make government services accessible to Filipinos and to reduce official transaction time to 72 hours.

“I want him to rent a building that will be dedicated for OFW concerns. All the clearances that they will need will be housed there,” Duterte said.

“So, doon lang (ang OFW) mag-ikot sa isang building. Ang Pilipino, hindi na siya mag-punta doon sa Statistics. Hindi na siya punta doon sa ano, diyan, diyan sa opisina. NBI clearance is doon na ninyo ibigay. Lahat na doon na,” he said.

“At kung dapat, may-awa si Bello, pakainin niyo yung mga tao doon. Lalo na sa probinsya. Pagtingin ninyo taga-probinsya, finish it right away,” he added.

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Labatt asks Bello to prioritize Emry's case

By Philip C. Tubeza

LABOR Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre has asked Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III to "prioritize" the case of Emry's employment agency.

Dela Torre said he sent a memo to Bello and asked him to order the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to prioritize the case.

"I've already recommended that the case be given priority. Nag-memo ako sa Secretary so he can also direct the POEA to give the case the highest priority," Dela Torre said in an interview.

Emry's was accused of offering non-existent jobs in the United Kingdom and Canada for a fee of \$10,000. It reportedly had at least 200 applicants.

Dela Torre said that, as of July 25, Emry's had yet to reply to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office's (POLO) order for it to explain why it was recruiting Filipinos in Hong Kong for work in London.

"Wala talaga," Dela Torre said.

Nevertheless, he said Emry's officials will have the opportunity to air their side at the POEA since they will be asked to appear and explain.

"Of course, may due process," Dela Torre said, adding that 151 complainants have gone to the POLO to file formal complaints against Emry's.

"Habang dumarating, iforforward naman namin ito sa POEA," he added.

On the other hand, officials of Assistance to Nationals section of the Philippine Consulate General told Hong Kong News that they forwarded the complaints of 187 applicants to the Hong Kong Police and the Employment Agencies Administration of the Labour Department.

The cases were forwarded in seven batches from June 28 to July 14 for further investigation.

Lorna Mojica, ATN officer, said another batch of complaints will be forwarded to Hong Kong authorities before the end of July.

Dela Torre in June said they have tem-



POEA

porarily stopped processing contracts submitted by Emry's, said to be the biggest provider of Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

POLO records showed that, since January this year, Emry's had submitted 676 FDH contracts, including 614 new contracts, four renewals, and 58 transfers.

The owner of Emry's insisted to POLO officials that she did not intend to dupe the jobseekers and promised that she would refund the applicants.

She also complained about the POLO decision to stop processing their contracts, saying that this was done "without due

process".

Dela Torre reminded Filipinos in Hong Kong to "stop believing ads" from Hong Kong agencies offering jobs in other countries.

"Ang importante is to stop patronizing or believing in those ads for third country deployment. Ilang beses na naming sinabi yan pero ayaw maniwala," he said.

Dela Torre said the POLO was publishing online the names of agencies accredited with the POLO so that FDHs and employers would know who the legitimate recruiters are.

He reminded the public that "third-coun-

try recruitment" is considered illegal by the Philippine government.

"Again, third-country deployment is illegal because those agencies that are doing third country recruitment and deployment are not licensed to do so by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration," Dela Torre said.

"Our OFWs in Hong Kong should be wary about these agencies. Ilang beses na namin nilalabas ito. Walang mapapala pag third-country (recruitment)," he added.

One complainant against Emry's, who went to the POLO on June 28, said she terminated her contract with her employer on the hope that she would get a job in UK. She said she paid \$10,000 in March.

"Magparefund ako kasi naganap ako ng job pero mahirap kasi break contract ako," the worker said.

She said she exited to mainland China and came back here as a tourist so that she could pursue her claim against Emry's.

"May malaki raw na company na hahawak sa UK connected sa Canada din. Sabi niya two to three months magkaroon kami ng job order pero hindi naman dumating," she added.

Macau OFWs to take LET exam in HK

By Philip C. Tubeza

SOME overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Macau can take the scheduled Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) in September here in Hong Kong, Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre said.

Dela Torre made the statement as the number of LET takers climbed to 636--321 for secondary and 315 for elementary--as of July 25. At least five of the applicants are from Macau.

"Pwede yung mga galing sa Macau basta masubmit lang nila yung papers," Dela Torre said in an interview.

He said he had already communicated with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Macau to disseminate the

information in the Filipino community there.

Dela Torre said one OFW came all the way from Macau to submit her requirements to the POLO here in Hong Kong. He said the requirements can also be submitted to the POLO in Macau.

"Pwede na doon kasi ipapadala rin naman dito (sa Hong Kong)," he said.

Dela Torre earlier said that around 500 Filipino domestic helpers were expected to take the LET to get a chance to go home and teach back in the Philippines and teach.

He said the POLO was also planning the holding of a civil service exam and a nursing board exam next year.

The LET requirements include photo-

copies of their transcript of records, passport, NSO certificate of marriage (for married applicants with inconsistent entries in their passports and other documents), and four Philippine passport size colored ID pictures.

For those who have questions, please call Gloria at 2866-0640 (POLO landline), 5529-1880 (POLO hotline), or leave a message on the POLO-HongKong SAR Facebook page.

The salary of a public school teacher in the Philippines under the 2016 Salary Standardization Law (Teacher 1, entry level, Salary Grade 11, Step 1) is P19,077 per month, including a personal emergency relief allowance of P2,000.

There are also other benefits such as one-step increment pay for every three years of satisfactory performance.

There is also a hardship allowance equivalent to 15 to 25 percent of basic pay if he/she is assigned in hardship posts and if he/she is a mobile teacher or multi-grade teacher.

On the other hand, Cebu Rep. Raul Del Mar has filed a bill increasing the basic monthly salary of public school teachers to at least P36,000.

It seeks to upgrade the salary grade level of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools from the present Salary Grade (SG) 11 to SG 20.

"Teachers are considered to be the prime mover of the education system; hence, the government needs to give priority to their interest and welfare," Del Mar said.

Del Mar said based on the third phase of the Salary Standardization Law, public school educators currently receive a minimum salary of P18,549.

Government employees under SG 20, meanwhile, have a basic monthly rate of P36,567.



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Drug trafficking suspect is undecided

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO confess or not to confess?

A Filipino tourist accused of trying to smuggle into Hong Kong more than five kilos of cocaine asked for more time to consider whether she was going to admit to the alleged crime or not.

Eastern Magistrate Jason Wan reset to August 19 the hearing on the case of trafficking in dangerous drugs against Rizza Mae L. Argamaso after she asked for more time.

"This is the second time that you asked for a postponement. I hope that after this four-week postponement, you've already

made a decision," Judge Wan told the defendant.

Argamaso was arrested at the Chek Lap Kok International Airport on February 7 after she arrived from Cebu.

Upon search on her suitcase, about 5.3 kilograms of suspected cocaine was found concealed inside shoes, folders and hand-

bags. Argamaso, 28, claimed that she was a businesswoman.

While Hong Kong does not have the death penalty, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence under the city's Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. The maximum penalty for a drug trafficker is life imprisonment and a fine of \$5 million.

On June 24, a 33-year-old Filipino saleslady was sentenced to more than 14 years in prison after trying to smuggle into Hong Kong nearly one kilo of cocaine.

High Court Justice Maggie Poon sentenced Ma. Cristina D. Dia, a saleslady, to 14 years and eight months in jail after she pleaded guilty to drug trafficking.

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The contraband found with Argamaso

Pokemon Go explained

By Cristy Kasilag

THEY may be small and fit inside the screens of your mobile phones, but they are currently the biggest craze in different parts of the world, including Hong Kong.

The creatures that are found on the location-based augment reality game Pokemon Go was only released by the game developer Niantic on July 6 but a very large number of people have already become hooked on playing the game on their mobile phones.

People, even celebrities, have been reported to be playing the game such as television host Ellen de Generes, singer Demi Lovato, and model Chrissy Telgen.

The players create their own avatar to show their location on the game map. Their mission is the capture the wild Pokemon characters that would appear on their screen.

But unlike many mobile games wherein the player can stay in one place in order to play the game on their android or iOS phones, the Pokemon Go game could require a whole lot of leg work.

The game has so far been made avail-

able in some regions such as Australia, Europe, Canada and the United States and many have already become addicted to it.

Many Filipinos are already looking forward for the game to be released in the Philippines.

However, some are apprehensive in downloading the game and are even afraid of getting bitten by the Pokemon Go craze.

While some might say that the Pokemon Go is a fun, new way to spend their time and would even promote walking or running exercises.

Players have been known to chase after the creatures in the parks, churches, streets, backyards and almost everywhere and so there had been reports of people having bad experiences as they search for these creatures.

There were reports of people suffering injuries and they ended up in hospitals because they were not minding where they were walking.

Their eyes were on the screen and did not see the open manhole or the steps in front of them.

Nevertheless, many are still addicted to the game which is a sure hit.

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Labour chief urges FDHs to file cases vs. 'no holiday' employers



Cheung

By Peter Castillo

FOREIGN domestic helpers (FDHs) in Hong Kong who are not given rest days should file a complaint against their employer, Labour Secretary Matthew Cheung said.

Cheung said employers who do not grant rest day to their domestic helpers violate the Employment Ordinance.

"The Government attaches great importance to safeguarding FDHs' right to at least one rest day in every period of seven days," Cheung told the Legislative Council (LegCo).

"The Government appeals to any aggrieved FDHs to file reports with the authorities as soon as practicable and to act as prosecution witness. LD (the Labour Department) will thoroughly investigate all reported cases and promptly take out prosecution if there is sufficient evidence to ensure that justice be done," he added.

Cheung made the statement after law-

maker Emily Lau asked what the government was doing about the results of a survey among FDHs in March which showed that all respondents worked "more than 70 hours a week on average."

The same survey, conducted by a human rights organization, showed that over one-third of them were not allowed by their employers to take statutory rest days.

"The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has all along been firmly committed to protecting the rights and benefits of over 340,000 (FDHs) in Hong Kong and to ensuring that Hong Kong remains a safe and attractive place of work for FDHs," Cheung said.

"Hong Kong is one of the few places in the world which grants the same statutory protection and rights, which include, inter alia, at least one rest day in every period of seven days, statutory holidays and paid annual leave, to FDHs under the labour law as local employees," he added.

Cheung said the Labour Department

(LD) has stepped up its efforts on various fronts to protect FDHs.

"Our commitment and efforts in protecting FDHs have also been recognised by the Hong Kong-based consulates-general (CGs) of the governments of FDHs' home countries," he said.

"LD has all along been enhancing FDHs' awareness of their rights and benefits as well as of the channels which they may seek assistance through various means," he added.

Cheung said the Hong Kong Police Force and the Immigration Department are also revising their victim identification guidelines to ensure that humans trafficking victims are provided with appropriate assistance.

"The law enforcement agencies will take all trafficking reports seriously and maintain close liaison with foreign CGs and non-governmental organisations with a view to bringing human trafficking criminals to justice," he said.

HK waiting for 14 yrs for PH reply on prisoners

By Peter Castillo



Lai

HONG KONG has been waiting for more than a decade for Manila to reply to its request to transfer here seven of its residents who are serving jail sentences in the Philippines, a lawmaker said.

Legislative Council (LegCo) member Paul Tse recently said that the earliest transfer application was filed in 2002 and yet there has been no reply from the Philippine government.

"The earliest application had been referred to the HKSAR Government by the (Chinese) Embassy in 2002, and yet 14 years have passed but the HKSAR Government is still waiting for the Philippine authorities to provide documents pertaining to the cases concerned," the lawmaker said.

The ages of the seven applicants are from 45 to 70 and they were given prison sentences ranging from 25 years to life imprisonment.

Hong Kong and the Philippines have a bilateral agreement allowing the transfer of prisoners so that they could serve the remainder of their prison terms in their native lands.

For a Hong Kong resident jailed in the Philippines to be transferred back here, the judgment in his case should be "final and no further proceedings relating to the offence or any other offence are pending in the Philippines."

The HKSAR government, the Philippine government, and the sentenced person should all agree to the transfer for it to happen.

Secretary for Security Lai Tung-kuok said seven applications were referred to the HKSAR government from the Chinese Embassy between 2002 and 2012.

"With respect to the seven applications from Hong Kong residents sentenced in the Philippines for transfer to Hong Kong to serve their remaining sentences...the HKSAR Government has, over the years, repeatedly approached the respective authorities of the Philippine Government directly or via the Chinese Embassy to obtain the documents required for those cases," Lai said.

He said these documents included relating to their conviction and sentence, the length of sentence already served and the remaining sentence, "so as to ascertain that the cases have satisfied the conditions for transfer."

"However, there has been no reply from the Philippine side yet. The HKSAR Government will continue to follow up the cases with the Philippine Government through various practicable channels," he added.

Nalunasan sa wakas ang ageing skin at katabaan

ANG Hong Kong ay isang bansa na ang halos sa mga kababaihan ay very conscious sa kanilang beauty. At siyempre pa kapag sinabi mong beauty, kasama na rito ang magandang figure at makinis na kutis. Kaya maging ang mga Pilipinang nadadako sa lugar na ito ay nagiging conscious na rin sa kanilang beauty at isa na rito si Gemma Ibarra ng Ho Man Tin.

May katabaan si Gemma at lalong nadagdagan ang timbang ng magbakasyon sa Pilipinas ng tatlong linggo dahil kinain ang lahat na paboritong pagkain. Maging ang balat ay nanuyo at gumaspang dahil sa napakainit na klima sa Pilipinas. Lalong lumitaw ang mga peklat ng tagihawat sa kaniyang mukha. Pagbalik dito sa Hong Kong ay sinubukan niyang uminom ng iba't ibang klase ng slimming tea ngunit walang nangyari.

Isang hapon, habang naglalakad sa Central, nakita niya si Emily, matagal na silang hindi nagkikita simula nang

makahanap ito ng bagong amo. Halos hindi niya nakilala ito dahil sa laki ng pagbabago ng hitsura. Naging seksi ito at talagang gumanda. Tinanong niya kung ano ang sikreto at pumayat ito. Pati ang kutis ay pumuti at kuminis. Sinabi ang sikreto nito ay ang paggamit ng Dream Love 1000 5 in 1 body essence lotion, gawa sa England. Sinamahan siyang bumili nito mula sa Fiesta Mart sa worldwide plaza sa halagang HK\$98 lamang.

Pagkatapos niyang gamitin ang lotion ng dalawang buwan, napansin niya na nabawasan ng 10 pounds at nawala ang mga taba sa hita at binti. Nagkaroon ng seksing hugis ang kanyang katawan at pumayat ang kanyang mukha, bukod pa sa pumuti, luminaw at kuminis ito. Laking pasalamat niya mula noon hanggang ngayon ay patuloy pa ring gamit ang 5 in 1 body lotion na maaari ding gamitin sa mukha.

(Article provided by: LT)



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Outstanding HK employers honored

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOR a change, three Hong Kong employers were honored for giving their foreign domestic workers the respect and dignity they deserve.

Open Door, a non-governmental organization, announced the winners of its first annual Outstanding Employer Contest during a ceremony in Central on July 7.

This year's outstanding employers were Mong Lai Kwan, Chung Yin Kwan, and Lau Miu Yuen.

"All I can say is she's the best employer that I have. She's the only employer that I have here in Hong Kong," said Lory Jean T. Yungco, Lau's Filipino domestic worker for the last two decades.

"Thank you for this activity to tell other people, especially the locals, that having a domestic worker is a privilege. We need to be treated as human persons," she added.

Lau said Yungco was not her first foreign domestic worker but she could be considered as the best she has ever had.

She added that they had been through a lot—Yungco arrived in Hong Kong when Lau's now grown-up son was still a baby—

—and their experiences and relationship in the last 20 years had made them each other's emotional support.

The contest—a collaboration between Open Door and artists Devora Neumark and Rowena Yin-Fan Chan—was launched in June with the candidates being nominated by their own domestic workers.

To be able to nominate their employer, a domestic worker should have been with her employer for at least five years.

The organizers required the workers to explain in 500 to 1,000 words why their employer should be considered as Hong Kong's outstanding employers. The three winners were chosen from the first 50 entries.

The employers were judged based on their relationship with their worker: having clear and respectful communication, and providing comfortable and safe working conditions, privacy and dignity, and decent living conditions.

"It's not about the high salary they pay or the material things they gave to these domestic helpers," said Holly Allan, manager of Helpers for Domestic Helpers and



Lau and Yungco

one of the judges in the contest.

"It's those who have little to give but are generous with their respect, care, and concern for domestic workers that are most appreciated," she added.

Allan said the contest wanted to honor those who provided privacy and dignity to their workers despite the notoriously small size of many flats in Hong Kong.

"You know how small some of the flats are here in Hong Kong and yet they managed to provide privacy and dignity to their workers," Allan said.

"They also gave their workers relative

freedom or some autonomy in how they perform their duties. They were not told all the time what to do," she added.

Allan said trust and confidence and clear communication lines between a domestic worker and her employer were also "very important".

"There should also be open communication between the employer and the employee, not just in giving instructions but also in having an interest in the personal life of the worker, in their dreams and aspirations," Allan said.

"A lot of these employers actually en-

courage their domestic workers to pursue their dreams and that's very admirable," she added.

The organizers said they came up with the contest because, most of the time, only negative stories about foreign domestic workers and their employers get attention in Hong Kong.

Each winner received an "Outstanding Employer of Hong Kong 2016" certificate while the winner and her worker each received a \$500 cash prize.

"Judging from the experiences we have heard, I think it is very important to remember to treat your worker as part of your family, to take care of them when they are sick, to share the burden of the household, and to be with them in difficult times," said Doris Lee, founder and chair of Open Door.

"That is also the message we today would love to spread out to Hong Kong, and to make example out of these outstanding employers to make Hong Kong people know that they are positive stories about how domestic workers and their employers could live happily together with their families in Hong Kong," she added.

Intimate moments nadama habang nasa Starbucks

IPINAHAYAG ni Lorna Mendoza ang kaniyang kaaya-ayang karanasan dahil sa paggamit ng upgraded Dream Love 1000 seksuwal na pabango, gawa sa England na may 3D hologram model image silver seal. Nabili daw niya ito sa halagang HK\$88 lamang mula sa kaibigan na authorized dealer nitong nasabing pabango.

Noong unang gamit nito ay napansin niyang naging magiliw ang among lalake na sobrang demanding tuwing maguutos. Kalaunan ay nagkaroon siya ng hindi inaasahan na pangyayari. Minsan ng magtungo siya sa Starbucks upang hintayin ang kaibigan ay napuna daw niyang panay ang ngiti ng katabing Amerikano. Wala siya choice kundi ngumiti na din dahil ugali nating mga Pilipino ang pagiging friendly.

Nagulat siya nang bigla itong lumipat ng upuan at

makishare sa table niya. Iniabot nito ang kamay at nagpakilala bilang Kent Smith. Nagkuwentuhan sila at napansin niyang panay ang haplos nito sa kaniyang balikat tuwing magkukuwento ng jokes. Hinayaan na lng niya ngunit dama niyang may nais itong ipahiwatig na pagka-akit at tila nabighani ito sa kaniya. Panay din ang langhap nito malapit sa kaniyang tainga sabay sabi na gusto daw ang halimuyak ng kaniyang pabango na gamit at saka lang niya naalala ang winisik niyang seksuwal perfume na Dream Love 1000.

Dumating ang inaantay na kaibigan at sinabi na match silang dalawa. Simula noon ay naging panay ang date nila ni Kent at kalaunan ay nagplano silang magpakasal.



Lorna Mendoza

(Article provided by: LT)

Unpaid debts, FB posts are top complaints at the ATN

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

UNPAID debts and offensive Facebook posts remain the top complaints that Filipino domestic helpers bring to the Assistance to Nationals section of the Philippine Consulate General.

Attache Hermogenes Cayabyab Jr. told Hong Kong News that during Sundays, they get an average of 10 complaints regarding debts and Facebook posts.

"Sinababi ko sa kanila na 'i-arrange ninyo ang schedule ninyo. Basta ang ating konsulado bukas sa inyo,'" Cayabyab said.

"Para ma-settle na natin agad kung gusto niyong may mamagitan sa inyo, sabay na kayong pumunta dito," he said.

During the meetings with the parties, they help the debtors work out a payment schedule, Cayabyab said.

"Ang ginagawa natin para ma-settle, ilalagat nila kung paano sila makakabayad. Tinatanong namin iyong sahod, kailangan siyempre may maiiwan pa," he said.

When parties refuse to settle, Cayabyab said they recommend bringing the dispute to the Small Claims Tribunal.

"Karamihan naman ayaw sa kanila na magpunta sa Small Claims Tribunal kasi makakarating sa employers nila. Sinasabihan ko din sila na 'matatanda na sila, tama na iyang Facebook na iyan,'" he said.

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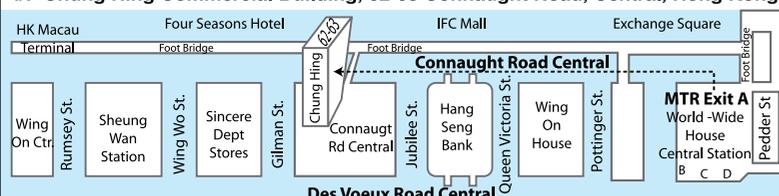
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Migrant leader hits exclusion of FDHs

By Philip C. Tubeza

A migrant leader has scored the exclusion of domestic workers from the proposed regulation of standard working hours in Hong Kong.

Shiella Grace Estrada, chair of the Pro-

gressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers in Hong Kong, said Standard Working Hours Committee (SWHC) draft materials have stated that “live-in domestic workers” would not be covered by any proposed regulation.

“Live-in domestic workers” include

domestic helpers, carers, chauffers, gardeners, boat-boys or other personal helpers who live free of charge with their employers, “irrespective of their sex, race, or nationality.”

“So, nakalagay na yung foreign domestic helpers excluded na talaga. Yun yung

nakalagay sa draft,” Estrada said in an interview.

“Pinapakita lang na hindi talaga pinakamagandang puntahan ang Hong Kong especially for foreign domestic helpers kasi walang equality,” she said.

“Hindi nila nirecognize as workers yung FDHs although malaki ang ating contribution sa kanila,” she added.

Estrada said she and her group attended the consultation conducted by the committee in Yau Ma Tei on July 16 and pressed for an eight-hour working day for FDHs.

“Nagsalita ako at yung ibang members namin at sabi nila they will look into it,” Estrada said.

The SWHC is tasked with promoting public understanding and in-depth discussion of the complex subject having standard working hours in Hong Kong.

It will also advise the government on the working hours situation in the territory including whether a statutory SWH regime or any other alternatives should be considered. The committee had just finished its second-stage consultation.

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FDHs march in Wan Chai for an eight-hour working day

FVR to talk to China

By Maia Lopez

FORMER President Fidel Ramos has accepted the offer of President Rodrigo Duterte for him to serve as the country’s special envoy to China in talks over maritime disputes in the West Philippine Sea.

“We can do this. I have been cleared by my doctors at the Makati Medical Center and cleared by my wife,” Ramos said after a two-hour meeting with Duterte in Davao City.

“But we should not jump the gun. The National Security Council should be convened first so that the Philippine position will be defined first by the group of Philippine leaders led by President Duterte him-

self,” he added.

Duterte said the country’s legal victory in the maritime dispute may not be on the agenda in possible talks with China.

“Ramos said that if it’s all right, we take out the arbitral judgment from the talks,” the President said.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, which is based in The Hague, said Beijing violated Manila’s sovereign rights in claiming the entire South China Sea through its nine-dash line policy.

“The tribunal concluded that there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights within the sea areas falling within the nine-dash line,” the PCA said.

Manila filed the case in 2013.



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Regular taxis for NAIA passengers

By Bing Jabadan

OVERSEAS Filipino Workers (OFWs) and travelers can now avail of regular white taxis upon their arrival at any of the four terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) general manager Eddie "Ed" Villanueva Monreal said.



NAIA

Monreal said that, since July 19, regular white taxis have been allowed to pick up passengers at any time at the NAIA Terminals 1,2,3 and 4.

"Before, I saw the horrendous situation of the newly arrived passengers. They have to climb up to the departure areas with their baggage to get a regular white taxi ride because only NAIA-accredited yellow taxis, coupon taxis and rent-a-car are allowed to pick up passengers in the arrival areas with fixed rates," Monreal said.

"Those days are gone and real change is happening," he added.

Unlike the regular white taxis that have a flag down rate of P30 and P3.50 for every succeeding kilometer, coupon taxis have a fixed rate with a minimum of P250 for the nearest destinations, Monreal said.

On the other hand, yellow taxis charge passengers with a flag down rate of P70 while P4 will be charged per succeeding

kilometer, he added.

Monreal said the regular white taxis pick-up area in Terminal 1 is at the main arrival curbside; in Terminal 2, the pick-up location is at the inner arrival curbside between bays 7 and 8; in Terminal 3, passengers can take the regular taxis at the secondary arrival curbside between bays 5

and 6; and in Terminal 4, the pick-up location is at its curbside.

The former MIAA administration earlier allowed GrabCar taxis that charge passengers with the base fare of P30 while P12 will be charged per succeeding kilometer.

Monreal said he considers this fare "too expensive" for the OFWs. He noted

that NAIA did not have enough accredited taxis and vehicles-for-hire to take the thousands of domestic and international passenger who arrive daily.

He warned regular white taxi drivers that they will be barred from entering the NAIA terminals if they violate the rules and regulation imposed by the MIAA.

EOC gives tips on pregnancy issues for FDHs

By Peter Castillo

WOULD you tell your employer if you were pregnant?

According to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), a foreign domestic worker should not be afraid to inform her employer about her pregnancy.

The EOC said the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status (whether a person is single, married, divorcee or widower), and pregnancy.

"Under the SDO, it is also unlawful for any employer to make a hiring decision or to terminate a person's contract based on her pregnancy. The same provision also applies to an employment agency in Hong Kong," the EOC said.

"The law also prohibits employers from forcing workers to quit their jobs because of their pregnancy. It is also unlawful for an employer to terminate a worker's contract upon her return from maternity leave because she was pregnant," it added.

The EOC also said that it is unlawful for an employment agency to refuse providing services to a person due to her pregnancy.

"Under the SDO, it is unlawful for your employment agents to refuse helping you to find a job because you are pregnant," it said.

The EOC said it also gets inquiries from time to time about whether paid maternity leave is available only to married women.

It explained that maternity leave is regulated under the Employment Ordinance Cap 57.

"Therefore, if a person fulfills the requirements set by the Employment Ordinance Cap 57 for paid maternity leave then she is entitled to it regardless of her marital status," the EOC said.

"If you experienced pregnancy discrimination, we suggest you seek assistance

from the EOC, NGOs or your respective Consulate," it added.

The EOC also gave tips on what to do if one falls victim to discrimination.

"Try to resolve this issue internally by speaking to the discriminator (whether this is your agent or your employer) and inform them about the provisions of the SDO," the EOC said.

"Note down the conversation. Record the date, time, and place of the conversation. Include what the person said and who was present. Keep a copy of these notes in a safe place. They can be useful if you decide to lodge a complaint or take legal action," it said.

The EOC also advised victims to keep a record of their work.

"If you are already employed, keep copies of any documents that show good performance. The discriminator may question your job performance in order to defend his/her behavior," the EOC said.

"Lodge a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) within 12 months of the date of the incident or take legal action at the District Court within 24 months of the date of the incident," it added.



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Ma-Art-Eh exhibit

HIGHLIGHTING the talent and creativity of Filipino domestic workers, the Philippine Consulate General (PCG) held an exhibit showcasing the obras they produced after attending free art workshops.

The exhibit, which ran from July 17 to 21, featured the artworks of Filipinos who attended the different workshops—dubbed “Ma-Art-Eh”—held by Pintura Circle, a group of Hong Kong-based Filipino artists who are passionate about art education and appreciation.

The workshops, conducted between January and April, taught participants about acrylic painting, porcelain painting, jewelry-making and design, and oil pastel drawing.

“The workshops and the exhibit are part of the Consulate’s programs and advocacies, in cooperation with the Pintura Circle, in its continued efforts to provide alternative avenues of development of our kababayans in Hong Kong, not only for artistic expression, but also to unlock their

potentials and broaden their knowledge and skills,” a PCG statement said.

Deputy Consul General Christian De Jesus led the opening ceremony and congratulated Pintura Circle and the workshop participants for coming up with beautiful and inspiring works of art.

Grace Camacho, Pintura Circle president, presented the OFW artists and gave a brief background on the creative process that resulted in the various artworks that were featured.

Jo Anne Pasatiempo, a representative of the OFW participants, thanked those who helped in giving them the opportunity to discover and hone their talents and showcase their artistic creation.

Assistant Secretary Janet Wong, from Hong Kong’s Commission on Strategic Development, also attended the event at the consulate.

The next series of “Ma-Art-Eh” workshops will be held in the first quarter of next year.



The jewelry designed and made by FDHs

Pintura Circle member Gail Camaya-Hills (fourth from the left) poses with FDHs



Deputy Consul General Christian De Jesus and Hong Kong News contributor Imelda Mae Bustinera



Some of the artworks

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It was all worth it

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

IT took her months. It took her painstaking efforts to pursue her claims, but it was all worth it when 59-year-old Filipino domestic helper Betty (not her real name) received compensation of over \$400,000.

Betty's story began on September 6, 2015 when she was told by her employer to stay home on a Sunday. At around 6 p.m., she took her employer's dog for a walk, but a neighbor's dog jumped on her. "Nabuwal ako. Naisangga ko yung kanang kamay ko sa ulo ko," she said.

The dog's owner, a lawyer who also lived in Discovery Bay, told her to seek medical assistance only. And because she was in so much pain, she agreed. At the Princess Margaret Hospital, the doctors said two of her joints got detached.

A month after the accident, her right hand had yet to fully heal. She also saw the same dog still unleashed. At this time, the dog's owner was still giving her money for her regular check-up.

"Sabi ko, 'Hindi ito pwede' kasi sinabihan ko siya na itali na niya ang aso niya pero hindi pa rin nakatali," Betty said.

She also learned that before her accident, another domestic helper was bitten by the same dog, but the worker was only given anti-rabies shots.

On October 2, she sought the help of the Assistance to Nationals section of the Philippine Consulate General, which referred her to a lawyer. This lawyer then helped her file her case before the Legal Aid Department.

Many times, Betty said, she wanted to give up. It took at least five rounds of interviews with Legal Aid before the approval of her request was given. Besides



Betty (not her real name)

the long interviews, Legal Aid also asked her to provide the full name and address of the dog's owner.

"Kasi ang ginagawa lang ng may-ari ng aso na kapag may pinipirmahan siya para sa pambayad ko sa hospital, iyong apelyido at first name niya lang. So, sabi ko one time, '[Sir], please may I know your full name?' Ang ginawa niya binigay niya sa akin ang name card niya," she said.

Betty then sent the name card to the Legal Aid, which then tracked the dog's owner and his address so they could send him documents about the case.

Then her case hit another snag. Her employer told her to drop her case and let him pay for her sick leaves and medical expenses.

"Sabi ng amo ko, matatalo ka. Kasi natalo siya ng \$3 million sa isang kaso niya," Betty added.

But she remained firm, even when the dog's owner once went to her employer's house, apparently drunk, and begged her to drop the case.

When the letter from Legal Aid was sent to her, she showed it to her employer, who told her that it was unbelievable that the dog's owner would be paying her at least

\$80,000 in compensation.

After learning of her case with the Legal Aid, the dog's owner then immediately sought a settlement, and it was agreed that he would be paying her some \$300,000 for sick leaves, \$97,000 for medical expenses, and \$67,000 to her employer.

"Siguro kung tinanggap ko iyong offer ng may-ari ng aso, baka mas malaki pa ang matanggap ko. Pero sabi ko sa sarili ko, kailangan ko lumaban ng tama. Ang mga Pilipina dito dapat hindi sila matakot.

"Lumaban sila sa kanilang karapatan dito sa Hong Kong kasi nagpunta sila dito na buo ang katawan nila at ang buong lakas nila binigay nila dito, tapos uuwi sila na hindi sila buo," Betty said.

She added that in case of accidents, Filipinos should immediately call the police and keep all their medical records that could serve as evidence.

"Sa lahat ng ito, prayer talaga ang nagbigay sa akin ng lakas ng loob at nangingi ako ng wisdom kay Lord, kung ano ang dapat kong gawin," said Betty, a Born-Again Christian.

She is set to go home for good in September. Her employer had given her some \$31,000 for her ticket and gratitude pay.

In Isabela, where she hails from, she bought three parcels of lot in front of the Isabela State University where she is planning to put up a boarding house.

Betty, who completed an agri-business course in college, said she is looking forward to taking care of her seven grandchildren from her five children in the province.

She said her accident was a blessing in disguise as, a year prior to it, she was worried about her finances as she was already planning to retire in the Philippines after working 23 years in Hong Kong.

5K...

From page 1

ed in the watchlist would have to explain her behavior if she again tries to hire a Filipino domestic worker.

"Pagnag-apply kasi, magpo-pop up yan. Kung hindi ma-explain, hindi na siya makakahire," he said.

The POLO began listing names of abusive employers in the mid-2000s and the list grew long after popular Cantopop singer Jacky Cheung accused his domestic worker, Preslyn Catacutan, of stealing a letter and three photos from him.

Many FDHs learned about the list after Cheung's name was included for having 21 domestic helpers over a three-year pe-

riod.

Dela Torre said the other employers on the list were accused of sexual molestation, maltreatment, and not providing food to their FDHs.

"And of course, yung frequency ng termination, although that will not tie our hands. Kahit minsan ka lang nagterminate tapos talagang abuser ka, hindi ka pwede. Iwawatch list ka talaga namin," he said.

Dela Torre earlier said that those who terminate and change FDHs several times a year should not be allowed to hire another Filipino domestic worker.

"Pag within a period of one year, ganyan uma-appear yung pangalan, iwatch list na rin namin," he said.



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Drug killings condemned

By Maia Lopez

SEVERAL sectors have condemned the recent spike in the number of drug-related killings, which have led to the death of innocent bystanders.

Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), an urban poor group, said the government should offer rehabilitation services instead of allowing vigilante groups to kill suspected drug pushers.

"Many victims of drug abuse living in poor communities turn to drugs to either escape from the harsh realities of their lives or for them to cope with the working conditions they face," said Kadamay chair Gloria "Ka Bea" Arellano.

"Instead of killings and deciding their entire lives are a waste of space, the government should offer them space to be more productive. Drug addiction and



Critics say even innocent bystanders were killed

abuse is a disease which can be cured. Services are grossly lacking, especially in terms of rehabilitation. While higher standards of living afforded to poor Filipinos

through jobs and decent wages play a large role as well," she added.

According to reports, 293 persons have been killed through operations conducted

by the authorities and vigilante citizens as of July 24.

Kadamay also expressed concern over the rise in vigilante justice, which can be unregulated, arbitrary and harm many innocent civilians.

"In other words, human rights should not be violated in the name of the Duterte's campaign," the group said.

It said the killings will deter the change needed in the country which should be founded upon the recognition of the basic needs and rights of people.

"Totoo namang may mga kababayan tayong minsang gumagamit ng droga para maibsan ang hirap ng buhay na dinadanas. Minsan nama'y mayroon iyung mga gumagamit ng droga para makapagpatuloy sa trabaho o makapasada na lampas sa takdang oras para lamang matustusan ang pangangailangan ng pamilya," Arellano

said.

"Pinakabulnerable ang mahihirap sa paglaganap ng droga dahil sa paglaganap din ng kahirapan. Biktima sila na dapat tulungan hindi tugisin" she added.

The group challenged the administration to devise better ways in dealing with the proliferation of drugs at the community levels.

It said barangay health centers should be armed with adequate drug intervention mechanisms and harm reduction.

Arellano said that spreading fear and intimidation amidst the populace can still spur the syndicates to find new ways while the cycle of violence continues.

She added that the 'root causes of the problem should be weeded out' and that improving the lives of the poor through education and basic social services will go a long way.

Admin wants lower income taxes

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said his administration will pursue a tax reform program that will include cut corporate and income tax rates in the country.

"We will lower personal and corporate income tax rates," Duterte said.

The current income tax brackets were set in 1997 under the National Internal Revenue Code and are among the highest in Southeast Asia.

A Filipino employee earning a little over P500,000 is taxed 32 percent while his Thai counterpart earning the equiva-

lent income is only taxed 10 percent.

House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said the measure lowering personal and corporate income taxes will be passed before the year ends.

Alvarez said that simplifying income tax brackets would address corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue as this would pave the way for standard income tax rates that could no longer be manipulated by unscrupulous officials.

Under the present tax system, Alvarez said erring BIR officials could "squeeze" taxpayers into giving bribes.

"Right now, our law on taxation is

very complicated and only those in the BIR understand it completely so some of them could extort from taxpayers," Alvarez said.

"What they do is they'll deliberately make tax assessments that are too exorbitant," he added.

Tax Management Association of the Philippines president Benedict Tugonon said the President's announcement was a welcome move, adding that a tax reform program was long overdue.

"We are very pleased to hear the statement of the President and this is what taxpayers have been waiting for," he said.

Duterte signs FOI order

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has signed Executive Order No. 2 paving the way for a Freedom of Information policy in all offices under the executive branch.

"The incorporation of this right in the Constitution is a recognition of the fundamental role of free and open exchange of information in a democracy, meant to enhance transparency and accountability in government official acts, transactions or decisions," Duterte said.

The order states: "Every Filipino shall have access to information, official records, public records and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts,

transactions or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for public-development."

Any person who requests for information will write to the duly authorized personnel assigned by the head of the government agency and should possess the requested information not longer than 15 days. Public officials are also reminded under the EO to make available their statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALN) for public scrutiny.

The EO states that requests for access to information are free of charge unless the agency requires to "reimburse necessary costs including actual costs of reproduction and copying of the information."

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Bello: memo to slash 'endo' by yearend

By Maia Lopez

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will issue a memorandum which aims to reduce the practice of "endo" by 50 percent before the year ends, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said.

"I plan to reduce contractualization by 50 percent by the end of 2016. Workers under 'endo' or "555" receive less than the mandated minimum wage without social protection benefits such as Social Security System (SSS), Pag-ibig, and PhilHealth," he said.

"Endo" or "555" refers to the hiring of workers for only about five months and without monetary, non-monetary, and social protection benefits.

Bello said DOLE was finalizing a memorandum which will provide directives to regional offices on how to deal with companies which are practicing "endo".

"Establishments which practice unlawful contractualization deprive workers of overtime, holiday pay, and other benefits,"



Malls are known to practice "endo"

said Bello,

During the first meeting with DOLE senior officials, Bello ordered DOLE regional offices to come up with a list of establishments which are into contractualization. The regional offices will then monitor these companies and go after violators.

"Alam naman nila kung alin ang mga

kompanya o establisyamento na nagpa-practice ng contractualization sa kanilang region. I told the DOLE Regional Directors during our first meeting to be very vigilant and monitor these establishments. Makikita sa listahan kung alin ang legitimate at violators ng batas," said Bello.

"If all the DOLE Regional Directors

will do their job of implementing the provisions of the law, the number of establishments which are into 'endo' employment will be significantly reduced," he added.

Bello added there are already proposals from various labor groups on how to end unlawful contractualization or "endo" in the country. The proposals, which range from reviewing and revoking Department

Order 18-A, are currently being studied by Usec. Joel Maglunsod and other labor officials.

Bello said DOLE was also coordinating with employers' groups to ensure that all sectors will be properly consulted.

He added that DOLE was studying several bills that aim to outlaw "endo" that are pending in Congress.

"Pinag-aaralan namin ang mga bills na ito para mai-push namin sa Kongreso," said Bello, adding that he authored a similar bill but it was not approved because he was then with the minority.

"That bill provides penal sanctions against companies that violate the provision on contractualization," he said.

Bello added that the goal to reduce the number of establishments that are practicing "endo" was part of DOLE's effort to realize the pronouncements of Pres. Rodrigo R. Duterte to abolish the unlawful contractualization scheme, which he described as unfair and a tool for exploitation of Filipino workers.

Solons want to lower senior citizen age

By Maia Lopez

SEVERAL party-list lawmakers have filed a bill which seeks to lower the senior citizen age from the current sixty (60) to fifty-six years.

"Established facts show that at age 56, age-related ailments and other physical limitations are already experienced, thus, benefits and special privileges are but necessary," AKO-Bicol party-list Reps. Rodel M. Batocabe, Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., and Christopher S. Co pointed out.

The lawmakers are joint authors of HB 529 entitled "An Act to reduce the Senior Citizen age from sixty (60) to fifty-six (56), further amending Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as 'An Act to Maximize the contribution of Senior Citizens to nation building, grant benefits and special privileges and for other purposes.'"



Batocabe

According to 2010 statistics, senior citizens made up 6.8 percent of the total household population in the country, and considering the proposed age reduction, an addition of not more than three

(3) million members will come from the 56-59 age group or equivalent to about three (3) percent of the total household population, they said.

"Consequently, the proposed additional members, more than half of whom are considered as heads of household, and the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who are separated from service due to the set mandatory age of retirement of 56 years, will be provided with the same benefits and privileges as enjoyed by those under existing regular retirement

system," the authors added.

Relative to this, the lawmakers also earlier filed HB 136 which seeks to have an optional retirement age of 56 years of age for all employees in the public and private sector.

Section 3 of HB 136 provides that "All employees in the government and private sector, regardless of their position, designation, or status, and irrespective of the method by which their wages are paid, upon reaching the age of fifty-six (56) shall be eligible for retirement benefits under governing laws."

"Aside from the obvious benefits of reducing the retirement age to their physical and professional careers, the reduction harmonizes the retirement age across all government employees as well as private employees," they explained.

At present, the mandatory retirement age for the police and the AFP is 56.

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GMA release scored

AKBAYAN Senator Risa Hontiveros expressed sadness and disappointment with the Supreme Court's decision acquitting former President and now Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the P366-million plunder case the senator filed in 2011.

"It's a sad day for justice," Hontiveros said. In an 11-4 ruling, the high court voted to acquit Arroyo, thereby freeing her from four years of hospital arrest due to the case.

Hontiveros, along with former Brigadier General Danilo Lim and social activist Jimmy Regalario, filed the PCSO plunder cases before the Ombudsman in 2011.

"The case we filed is strong. In fact, it was one of the two PCSO plunder cases admitted by the Office of the Ombudsman under Conchita Carpio Morales, and subsequently filed before the Sandiganbayan", she said.

Hontiveros said that the Ombudsman confirmed the diversion of funds from PCSO's operating budget to the confidential or intelligence fund, which can be withdrawn or accessed any time and with few restrictions.

Peter Arevalo

Second wave of Saudi layoffs feared

By Maia Lopez

A migrant rights group in Saudi Arabia has urged the Philippine government to prepare for the “second wave of mass layoffs” of overseas Filipino workers in the kingdom.

John Leonard Monterona, convenor of the United Overseas Filipinos Worldwide (U-OFW), said it was not remote that a second wave of mass layoffs of OFWs in Saudi Arabia is in the offing.

“There are indications that a second wave of OFWs mass layoff here in Saudi Arabia may happen. The Saudi govern-

ment is the main source of infrastructure projects but noting the financial standing of the host government that is trying to solve its budget deficit, construction companies and other related trades are slowing down or phasing their activities,” Monterona said.

“This will lead to downsizing and thus mass layoff is a natural offshoot,” he added.

Monterona noted that some of the top 10 construction companies in Saudi Arabia were in bad shape financially even before the drop of oil prices from \$120 per barrel to \$30 last year.



Saudi Arabia

“Saudi Bin Ladin Group (SBG) and Saudi Oger were the first to be hit by the situation. Mohammed Al Mojil Group (MMG) was not affected by the oil price

slump but merely due to the company’s mismanagement. These companies directly employed OFWs reaching to 8,000 altogether,” Monterona added.

He added that the above figure does not include OFWs working for the subcontractors of SBG and Saudi Oger.

Monterona cited the case of the 60 OFWs working for Arabian Alumco Company, a sub contractor of Saudi Bin Ladin, at its Riyadh and Hofuf jobsites.

“Alumco OFWs have been stranded for five months waiting for their unpaid wages, renewal of residence permit, and exit visa so that they can go home,” he said.

Another case involved OFWs working for Galaxy Light, an establishment engaged in sub contracting with general contractors under government private projects.

Monterona said OFWs working for Galaxy Light have also not been paid of their wages for five months.

“It would be prudent on the part of the PH government to closely monitor the host government’s economic and political situation as any changes will surely impact the 800,000 documented OFWs living and working in Saudi Arabia,” Monterona said.

Filipino singers wow Malaysians

By Maia Lopez

FILIPINO musical talent was on its finest as it wowed audiences in two separate events on July 16 in Malaysia.

The Balon Dagupan Children’s Choir (BDCC), young divas Gabrielle Panlilio, Platinum Christi Madrid and Yumi Chung and the Ang Misyon orchestra were in Malaysia. Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya hosted the BDCC and the young divas for lunch at the Philippine Embassy on July 18.

The choir and Ms. Panlilio also performed before the Embassy’s consular clients that day.

“You have uplifted the profile of the Philippines and the Filipino people in Malaysia. I hope that you will continue to work hard and persevere in your chosen craft, and always be grateful to your parents and teachers to mentor you in your



The BDCC choir

craft,” he told them during the lunch.

The BDCC competed at the Malaysian International Children’s Choir Competition 2016 held at the Shah Alam Royal Theatre in Selangor in the morning.

The choir, led by conductor Virginia Llamas-Mendoza and Prof. Adolfo Mendoza, impressed the judges with their rendition of “O Sanctissima” and “Orde E”, and was bestowed the Gold Prize along with being the Most Promising Overseas

Choir and the Shah Alam Mayor’s Award, the highest prize in the competition.

With the theme “Binding Culture through Music,” the international choral festival was joined by 15 choral groups from Vietnam, India, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Minister and Consul General Maria Antonina Mendoza-Oblena was on hand to watch them in competition.

In the evening, Misses Panlilio, Madrid and Chung and Ang Misyon were part of the ChildAid Malaysia benefit concert at the KL Performing Arts Centre.

Ambassador Malaya caught their performance and gave the opening remarks before the concert.

With the theme “A World To Imagine,” performers from China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia joined hands for the benefit concert to provide music education to poor but deserving children.

Pinoy photog featured

By Maia Lopez

SEVERAL photographs of renowned Filipino photographer Jake Verzosa were featured at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Versosa’s “The Last Tattooed Women of Kalinga” were displayed at the museum’s property grounds along Queen’s Park in downtown Toronto, as part of the ScotiaBank’s CONTACT Photography Festival.

This is part of the “Tattoos: Ritual. Identity. Obsession. Art.” exhibition which opened on April 2 and will run up to September 5. The exhibit includes two photographs taken by Verzosa.

His photograph of Whang-od, the 91-year old tattoo artist from Kalinga, is considered as the “face” of the exhibition.

This speaks highly of the powerful photographs of Verzosa. The Royal Ontario Museum is inviting Verzosa to be a keynote lecturer at the museum to cap the Exhibition’s run.

The Tattoos Exhibition was first shown at the Musee du Quai Branly in Paris in 2014 where it earned rave reviews. The Royal Ontario Museum is one of the largest museums in North America.

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Good, bad, and missing

ON July 25, President Duterte delivered his first State of the Nation Address (SONA).

First we take a look at the good: the president should be commended for standing firm on the full implementation of the Reproductive Health Law; the extension of driver's licenses from three years to five years; strict enforcement of the Mining Law; the push to extend the validity of the passports from the current five years to 10 years. Other good points include the elimination of red tape; the bid to reduce personal and corporate income tax, and to relax the bank secrecy laws.

And then we take note of those he said that missed the mark: his statement on

human rights and relentless fight against illegal drugs in the country likely caused a shudder among the kin and friends of the victims of "extra-judicial killings".

Duterte was, of course, elected in power, vowing that should he become president, the fight against the illegal drug menace would be vicious and brutal.

But we can't help but wonder if his SONA remarks would be taken to mean that more extrajudicial killings would be expected in the coming days?

Finally, we note that Duterte failed to mention anything about his promise to end illegal contractualization. It was one of the most remarkable promises that Duterte made during the campaign period.

Health Alert

Slimming product recalled

THE Department of Health (DH) has endorsed a local distributor, Catil International Holdings Limited (Catil), to recall a slimming product called B-finn from the market as it was found to contain undeclared Western drug ingredients.

Acting on intelligence, the DH purchased a sample of the above slimming product for analysis. Test results from the Government Laboratory revealed that the sample contained two undeclared substances, namely orlistat and 2-(Diphenylmethyl)pyrrolidine (desoxy-D2PM). Investigations revealed that Catil is the local distributor for the product. Catil has agreed to recall the product from the market and has set up a hotline (3180 5831) to answer related enquiries.

The DH's investigation is continuing. Orlistat is a Part 1 poison used for the treatment of obesity. Its side effects include faecal urgency, fatty stool, increased frequency of defecation, faecal incontinence, headache and abdominal pain. Severe liver injuries may also be induced.

Desoxy-D2PM is a psychoactive substance and has been reported to cause hal-

lucinations and severe agitation. It has no medicinal uses.

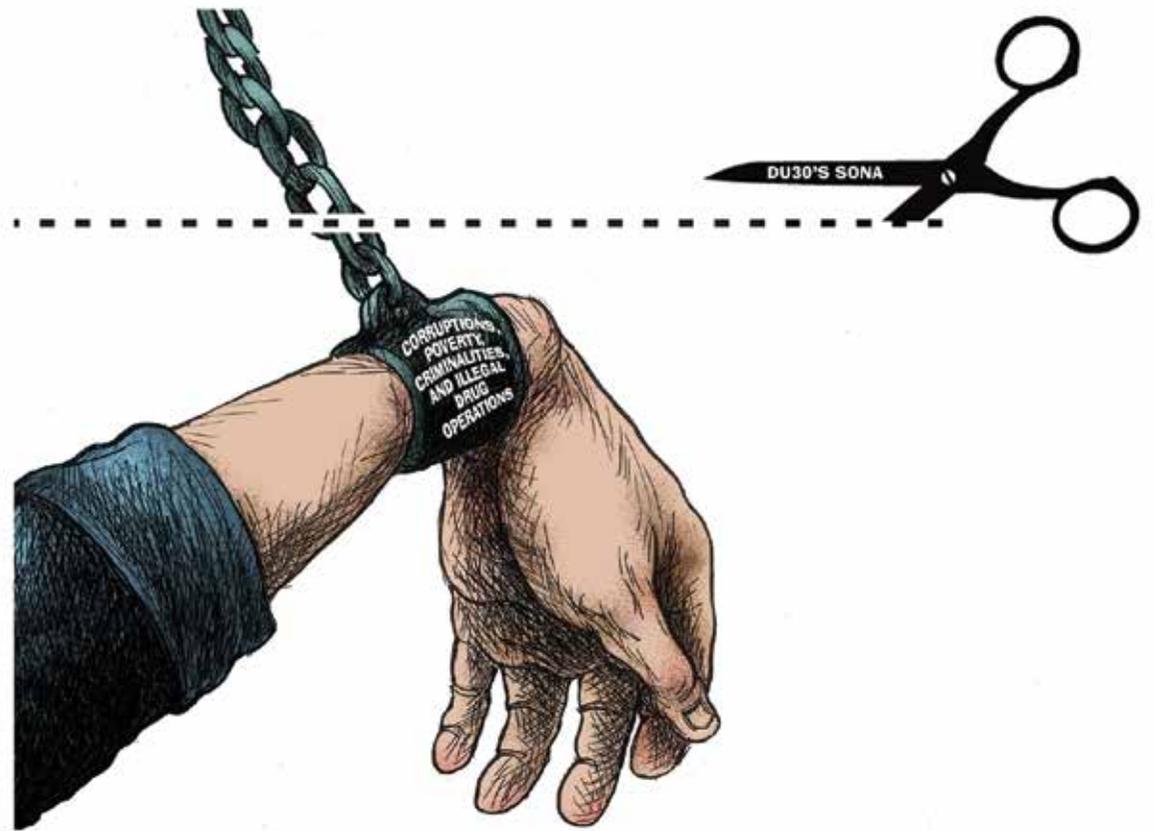
According to the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap 138), all pharmaceutical products must be registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong before they can be sold legally in the market.

Illegal sale or possession of Part 1 poisons and unregistered pharmaceutical products are criminal offences. The maximum penalty for each offence is a fine of \$100,000 and two years' imprisonment.

Weight control should be achieved through a balanced diet and appropriate exercise. The public should consult healthcare professionals before using any medication for weight control.

Members of the public who have purchased the product should stop consuming it immediately. They should consult healthcare professionals if feeling unwell or in doubt after consumption. They may also submit the product to the DH's Drug Office at Room 1856, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, during office hours for disposal.

As We See it



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

Kakaibang SONA

MARAMING makasaysayan na nangyari sa unang SONA ni Pangulong Duterte. At dahil dito, masasabi na kakaiba talaga.

Pinakamahaba na yatang SONA iyon sa kasaysayan dahil umabot ng mahigit isa't kalahating oras. Paano ba naman, liban sa nakasulat na talumpati ay pinasukan pa ng napakaraming mga adlib at kwento upang magbigay-diin sa kanyang mga posisyon sa mga iba't ibang usapin.

Tinanggal ang magarbang fashion show ng mga pulitiko at opisyal. Sa kaula-unahang pagkakataon din ay tinanggal ang mga harang na container van at barbed wire at hinayaan ng mga 40,000 rallyista na makalapit sa Batasang Pambansa. At ang PNP Chief pa mismo ang pumunta sa rally para makipag-kamay sa mga lider. Matapos nga ang SONA, nag-imbata pa si Duterte sa mga progresibong grupo.

Pero ang pagiging iba ay masusukat talaga hindi lamang sa porma kungdi sa

laman nito.

Masasabi na karamihan sa mga binitawang pahayag niya sa kanyang talumpati ay pagpapalaman na sa mga dati na niyang binitawang pangako noong kampanya pa lang niya. Gayunpaman, ito ngang mismong mga pangako niya ang niyakap ng mga ordinaryong Pilipino kung kayat nanalo siya ng landslide noong nakaraang eleksyon. Ang mga pangako ngang ito ang nag-iba sa kanya mula sa pangako ng pagpapatuloy ng Tuwad Na Daan ni dating pangulong PNoy na siyang nagpatalo sa manok niyang si Roxas.

Kumbaga, kita agad ang consistency niya sa kanyang vision kung anong klaseng Pilipinas ang gusto niya.

Gusto niya ng industrialisasyon ng Pilipinas para makalikha ng trabaho. Gusto niyang pigilan ang mapanira na illegal na aktibidad na mining at logging. Gusto niyang bigyan ng kaluwagan at ginhawa ang mga ordinaryong tao lalo

na ang mga galing probinsya. Bigyan daw ng kuryente ang mga nasa squatter's area. Walang magaganap na demolisyon kung wala rin lang reloksasyon. Gagawing 10 years ang validity ng pasaporte. Magtatayo ng one-stop na processing ng mga dokumento ng OFWs sa ilalim ng isang departamento.

Pero ang pinakamahalagang inanunsyo niya ay ang unilateral ceasefire sa mga rebolusyonaryong pwersa ng CPP-NDF-NPA. Sabi niya, gusto at sinsero siya na magkaroon ng makatarungan at magtatagal na kapayapaan. Sana nga. Dapat ngang sagutin ang ugat ng rebelyon sa bansa - ang malawak na kahirapan, korupsiyon, inhustisya at kriminalidad.

Mukhang sa laman, kakaiba rin. Dahil mas halata ang kanyang kiling sa masa at naghihirap. Sana nga ay hindi lang sa salita ito. Kapag nangyari ang marami sa mga ito, aba, talagang aangat siya bilang kaiba sa nagdaang mga presidente.

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,
Kahit malayo ako sa bansa natin, masigasig pa din akong sumusbaybay sa mga nangyayari doon.

Lagi kong binabasa ang mga balita at pinapanood ang mga videos ng mga kaganapan doon sa atin.

Kagaya ng madami sa atin nitong nakaraang eleksyon, talaga namang inantabayanan ko kung sino ang mahahalal na pangulo natin sa susunod na anim na taon.

Mula nang manumpa si Rodrigo Duterte bilang presidente ng Pilipinas noong Hunyo 30, talaga namang inaabangan ko kung ano kanyang mga susunod

na hakbang lalo na at isa ako sa mga sumuporta at bumoto sa kanya.

Gusto ko kasing malaman kung paano niya gagawin ang ga ipinangako niyang pagbabago sa atin. Gusto ko ding malaman kung paano niya matutulungan ang mga OFW na tulad ko at maging ang mga pamilya namin.

Ngayon, kahit paano ay nag-aalala ako sa mga pangyayari sa atin. Nakakatakot na din kasi ang balita ng mga pagpatay sa mga hinihinalang nagtutalak ng droga sa atin.

Nakakahala iyong mga pictures na nakikita ko

sa media. Sinusuportahan ko ang kampanya laban sa bawal na gamot. Ngunit wala na bang ibang paraan upang masugpo ito?

Sana naman maging matagumpay pa din ang laban sa bawal na droga na hindi kailangang pumatay ng madaming tao at kung saan maaaring madaming madamay na inosente naman talaga.

Sana mabasa ito ng mga awtoridad sa atin at makarating sa ating pamahalaan ang mensahe ko.

Sumasainyo,
Rudy T.

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GALLERY

The lovely winners of the Kata raffle draw held on July 24 at Shop 218 in World Wide Plaza in Central.



Members of World Wide Crew (WWC) gather together to celebrate Chef Wilson's (3rd from right) birthday at the 3/F of World Wide Plaza in Central.



Chef Mommy Sonia poses with students of the Culinary Arts Centre who are taking up Asian and Western Cooking. For enquiries, please call at 28507724 or 28507714.



The organizers and winners of the successful Search for Ms. Image Model 2016 that was held last July 17 at the Bayanihan Center in Kennedy Town.

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'A Filipino Feast' in Hong Kong

THE Philippine Consulate General assisted Cheryl Tiu of Cross Cultures in bringing together a two-day pop-up dinner, dubbed "A Filipino Feast in Hong Kong" in Kennedy Town.

The dinner, held from July 13-14 at 42nd Davis, was prepared by Hong Kong-based Filipino chefs Roy San Antonio and Roy Ocampo; Jerome Santos, Group Executive Chef of Rocco's Pizzeria; and Jimlie Catapang of Linguini Fini. Special guests were Chef Dedet de la Fuente of Pepita's Kitchen and the event's mixologist, Joe Villanueva.

Patrons were treated to a delectable eight-course Filipino meal featuring chicken wings inasal; organic beef tapa; atchara (pickled radish) and quail eggs; ginatang alimasag (crabs in coconut milk); sisig in phyllo with calamansi aioli; inihaw na pusit (grilled squid) with tomato mango salsa and toymansi (soy sauce with calamansi juice); pinakbet (mixed vegetables stew) with homemade bagoong (fermented shrimp); Pepita's Kitchen signature lechon (roasted pig) with truffle rice; super suman (sticky rice cake); white chocolate with sampaguita-infused dark chocolate ganache and milk chocolate with ube (purple yam) ganache.

Summer cocktail-quenchers were prepared by Villanueva featuring Destileria Limtuaco products. These included Pinoy's Cup (Manille Liqueur de Calamansi, lemon juice, carbonated salabat or ginger juice); Tropical Quencher (Paradiso Mango Rum, mint, lime, pineapple syrup, pilsner beer); and Flan de Kape (Amadeo Coffee Liqueur, Very Old Captain Rum, Joe's leche flan).

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BARKADAHAN TAMBAYAN

Your OFW-COMMUNITY in Hong Kong



Search is on for the next Ms. Barkadahan

Narito muli ang pinakamalaking pageant ng mga Overseas Filipino Workers sa Hong Kong, ang Ms. Barkadahan 2016! Gaya ng mga nakaraang mga taon, kukuha ang Barkadahan sa SmarTone ng masuerteng 12 finalists para

Ang pageant na ito ay para lamang sa mga female OFW domestic helpers sa HK na gumagamit ng Barkadahan at member siya dapat ng isang OFW community group na founded no less than 6 months at registered sa Society's Ordinance at Philippine Consulate. Kailangan ng suporta ng kanyang grupo para manood at mag-cheer sa kanya sa event. Simple lang ang pag audition ngayon dahil ONLINE application na. Merong dalawang paraan kung paano mag submit at ito ay sa: Barkadahan sa SmarTone Facebook page (inbox o private message) o sa Whatsapp (text sa # 55070471). Kailangan mo ipadala ang mga sumusunod na personal information: 1) Latest photo (close up & full body) o video na less than 1 minute lang; 2) Your full name (same sa HKID); 3) Your HKID# (Letters + first 4 digits lang); 4) Barkadahan mobile number; 5) Age; 6) Contract expiry date; 7) OFW community group name sa Hong

Kong. Ang last day ng pag submit ng online application ay sa Aug 14. Ang mapipiling pupunta sa auditions ay tatanggap ng SMS Text mula sa Barkadahan sa SmarTone admin on or before Aug 19. Paalala lang na isang beses mo lang kailangan mag send ng online application. Para sa karagdang detalye, tingnan ang Barkadahan leaflets. Ang pagsali sa Ms. Barkadahan ay talagang napakasarap na experience. Ito ang dream event at talagang once in a lifetime experience ang maka perform sa isang international venue na professional ang set up at production. Dito mag-level up confidence mo ng bonggang bongga! Wala rin gastos mga finalists dito dahil lahat ay sagot ng Barkadahan.

Talagang professionally done lahat at very strict sa mga rehearsals. Ang finals ay sa September 25, 2016 sa Hong Kong Convention Center Wanchai. Abangan detalye sa Barkadahan kung paano manood. Kaya ano pang hinihintay mo! If you have what it takes or if you think you are the next Ms. Barkadahan 2016, mag submit ka na ng application. Kung meron ka naman friends na pwede dito, sabihan mo na sila, JOIN NA, NOW NA!



mag-compete sa finals. Mamimigay sila muli ng malaking papremyo sa mga mananal. Hanggang 1 Million pesos worth of prizes ang ipamimigay. P150,000 sa Champion, P100,000 sa kanyang Community Group dito sa Hong Kong, P250,000 ay paghahatian ng mga ibang finalists o contestants at natitirang P500,000 ay paghahatian naman sa mga lucky draw winners mula sa audience sa araw ng event.



CARD Skills Training in full blast

WITH the aim of empowering OFWS with useful skills for leisure and future business opportunities, CARD (Center for Agriculture and Rural Development) OFW HK conducted another skills training seminar last month.

The training, dubbed "Amazing Gift Ideas", had 83 participants and was held on July 17 at Bayanihan Centre in Kennedy Town.

The training was headed by 3G Ladies spearheaded by Gigi Lingao, Edna Iyana Solidar, Janet Torres and Blan Valdez with the assistance of CARD Trainors Joao Buendia and Elpie Abel. They patiently taught participants on how to make dangling earrings, bracelet and lotus flower out of beads.

"I was so fulfilled when I was able to do all what is expected of us to finish. I know I can do more at home to showcase my creativity," said participant Arlina B. Clarus.

Another participant, Stella Agtarap, said: "All the skills taught to us are really beneficial, not only for leisure but it could also open opportunities for earning especially when we go home for good."

To date, the group already offered various skills training like Longganisa and Tocino Making, Fruit Carving and more skills training to look forward to for the rest of the year.

CARD OFW HK also offers regular financial literacy and entrepreneurship seminar. For those who want to join the financial literacy seminar on August 21 at Bayanihan Centre and the other worthwhile activities offered by this group, kindly call 95296392/54238196 for reservation and inquiries.

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Mag-FB raw sabi ni boss

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

MAG-AANIM na taon na sa kasalukuyang pinagsisilbihang pamilya si Dina, 48, may asawa at dalawang anak, at tubong Isabela, nang magpaalam sa amo at gusto na raw niyang umuwi.

Tinanong ng amo kung bakit dahil maayos naman daw ang trato nila at gusting-gusto siya ng mga alaga niya. Sinabi ni Dina na nami-miss niya ang pamilya.

Hindi niya maiwasan ang mag-alala sa mga anak at asawa dahil may sinabi ang mga magulang niya na halos hindi raw binibitawan ng asawa niya ang telepono

nito.

Natawa ang mga amo ni Dina at sinabing nakikiuso lang raw siguro ang pamilya lalo na ang asawa sa kinakahumalingan sa panahon ngayon na FB.

Bakit daw hindi rin siya magFacebook para makita at makausap niya lagi ang pamilya niya? Nagsabi ng totoo si Dina na hindi siya marunong. Tinawag ng amo ang isa sa alaga ni Dina para paturuan. Nang iabot ni Dina ang cellphone niya ay sinabi ng alaga na hindi pwedeng pang FB kasi lumang modelo. Kinabukasan ay binigyan ng iPhone si Dina. Matiyagang tinuruan si Dina hanggang natuto na rin.



Facebook

Mas tiwala ang amo sa kasambahay niya dito

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

MATAGAL ng kasambahay sa kasalukuyang amo si Martha, 48, hiwalay at may isang anak, at tubong Catanduanes, kaya halos kabisado na niya lahat ng galaw at ugali ng mga amo niya.

Kahit na ang marka ng sahig ay alam niya kung dumi o hindi kapag nasilayan niya ng paningin.

Habang naglalaba siya ng mga damit na kailangan labahan ng kamay ay may idinagdag ang among lalaki na mga damit niyang ginamit nang umuwi sa kanilang bansa dahil may inasikaso sa negosyo roon.

Nilabahan na raw ng katulong nila doon ang mga damit pero hiniling ng amo na labahan raw uli ni Martha ang mga ito dahil hindi raw siya kontento sa pagkakalaba.

Napapangiti na naiinis si Martha habang



Ang labada

naglalaba dahil dagdag pa raw ito sa tambak ng labahin. Pagkaarte-arte raw talaga ng amo niya.

Nang mapansin ng amo na tapos ng maglaba si Martha ay ipina-steam naman nito ang dalawang terno na suit niya dahil

maraming beses niya raw niyang ginamit ang mga ito nang hindi na steam sa bansa nila kasi hindi raw marunong yung kasambahay nila roon.

Kinahapunan, namamalantsa naman si Martha nang may ibinigay namang mga nakatuping long sleeves ang amo.

Hindi raw niya ito nagamit pero plantsahin na lang daw ang gusot dulot ng kanyang pagkakatupi.

Hawak pa lang ni Martha ay nahalata niya agad na nagamit at nilabahan na ang long sleeves. Tinanong ni Martha ang amo kung ginamit niya raw ba at nilabahan doon kasi kabisado raw ni Martha ang sarili niyang laba at plantsa.

Siguro ginamit nga raw niya. Tinanggal lang daw sa pagkakasabit ito at tinupi nang pabalik na raw ang amo. Pakilabahan na lang daw uli. Itinigil ni Martha ang pagplantsa at inilagay sa basket ang labahin.

Kailangan tiisin ni Anna ang sunod-sunod na trabaho

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

HUMANAP lang ng maikling oras para plantsahin ang uniporme ng among babae ni Anna, 36, may asawa at anak, tubong Bohol, na walang ibang pinagpapalit-palit kundi apat na pirasong pantaas at isang terno na palda't coat. Kailangan niya itong malabhan at maplantsa agad para magamit.

Dahil sa bahay lang nag-oopisina ang among lalaki, pinagluluto niya ito mula almusal hanggang tanghalian bukod pa sa ibang gawaing bahay na kailangan niyang bigyan ng atensyon.

Gahol na siya sa oras para maghanda ng hapunan kaya halos mapaso na siya ng plantsa nang lumapit ang among lalaki

at iniabot ang ilang pirasong long sleeve shirt para ipaplantsa.

Pagpipilian niya raw kung alin ang isusuot dahil may kakatagpuin siyang kaso-syo sa kaniyang negosyo. Habang pinaplantsa niya ay iniisip kung inis na inis ba siya sa among lalaki o sa sarili. Mahirap daw talagang maging kasambahay.

Kung tutuusin hindi naman ang amo ni Anna ang may kagustuhan na mamasukan siya kaya kung talagang nahihirapan ay pwede naman siyang magbitiw.

Hindi naman ito pinagbabawal at maka-kalis siya. Pwede siyang mamuhay ng ano man gustuhin niya. Pero kapag naiisip ni Anna ang mangyayari sa kanyang at sa kanyang pamilya ay nabubuhayan siya ng lakas loob na tiisin ang hirap.

Napurnada ang lipad ni Joy

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

TUWANG-TUWA si Joy, 28, dalaga, at tubong Iloilo, nang sa wakas naihanap siya ng kaibigan niya ng bagong amo. Sabik na sabik si Joy na matanggap ang blankong kontrata na dapat niyang sulatan ng kanyang impormasyon at malagdaan.

Matapos niyang sulatan at lagdaan, kiniunan ito ni Joy ng larawan at saka ipinost sa Facebook, na may nakasulat na sana raw ay tuloy-tuloy.

Segundo lang ang dumaan at may mga nagsulat na agad ng kung ano-ano. Namumukod tangi yung sinabi na hindi pa nga nakakaalis at hindi pa nga naipapadala pabalik ang pinirmahang kontrata sa magiging amo para pirmahan din, ang dami na raw bilin. Habang hinihintay ni Joy ang visa ay nilakad na rin niya ang ibang dapat asikasuhin, tulad ng pagpamedical at pagsasanay sa kultura ng bansang pupuntahan.

Pero makalipas ng anim na lingo, sinabi ng ahente na lumalakad ng visa na isinara ang ahensiya gawa ng may mga reklamo na irigularidad.

Nadismaya ang magiging amo ni Joy dahil malaki raw ang ibinayad sa isinarang ahensiya. Naghanap ito ng panibagong ahensiya pero, sa kasamaang palad, pagdating ng amo doon ay may inirekomendang kasambahay na maaring mag-umpisa ano mang oras. Dahil kailangang-kailangan na niya at matagal ding panahon ang ipinag-hintay kay Joy, tinanggap na ng amo ang inirekomenda. Nganga tuloy ngayon si Joy.

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Heart Evangelista gets a rare Birkin

By Jiji Sampan

FOR Philippine TV's Sweetheart Heart Evangelista-Escudero, style is a way to say who you are without having to speak.

Identified as one of Philippines' fashion icons, Heart admits that aside from her sophisticated love for whites, she is a

lover of designer bags, particularly that of Hermes Birkins and Kellys.

A week ago, the Instagram followers of the Juan Happy Love Story star were stunned with her newest handbag acquisition. It was a 25-centimeter Himalayan Birkin, which according to Vogue.com, is the 'rarest and most desirable handbag in

the world.'

According to reports, her new arm candy features subtle coloration, made from the hide of a Niloticus croc and goes through the same painstaking dyeing process to achieve that delicate blanc hue.

Minus the bling, the Himalayan Birkin is reportedly being sold online for

more or less \$150,000 to Hermes' most trusted VIPs such as model and socialite Kim Kardashian, Hollywood star Victoria Beckham and well-known fashion designer Rachel Zoe.

To date, Heart is the first Filipina actress to own the hefty priced handbag



HEART

Luis nalink

kay Jessy

By Cristy Kasilag

MAAARI sigurong bansagan si Luis Manzano na Kilabot ng mga FHM's Sexiest dahil sa pagkakilink niya ngayon sa FMH's sexiest woman ngayong taon na si Jessy Mendiola.

Pero hanggang sa ngayon ay hindi pa umaamin na official na silang dalawa.

Bago na link ang 35-anyos na si Luis sa 23-anyos na FHM beauty, naging girlfriend niya ng dalawang beses ang aktres na si Angel Locsin hanggang sa nag-break-up sila ng simula ngayong taon.

Itinanghal na FHM's sexiest si Angel nuong taong 2010.

At nung mga panahon na magkahiwalay sila Luis at Angel, naging girlfriend ni Luis si Jennylyn Mercado ng dalawang taon mula 2011 hanggang 2013. Ginawaran ng titulo si Jennylyn bilang FHM's sexiest nuong taong 2015.

Balik tayo sa kasalukuyan, kung saan sa love life ni Luis ang matunog na pangalan ay ang kasalukuyan pinaka sexy na babae ayon sa FHM.

Mayroong mga haka-haka sa tunay na relasyon nila Luis at Jessy. Ayon di umano sa isang malapit na kaibigan ni Luis, kahit na sabihin ng dalawa na "friends" lang sila ay totoong "item" na raw sila.

Nagkapalagayang loob daw sila noong kakabreak lang ni Luis kay Angel samantalang itong si Jessy ay muling nakipaghiwalay sa dati niyang nobyo na si JM De Guzman.

Kaya hindi totoo ang mga bintang na si Jessy ang dahilan ng hiwalayan nina Luis at Angel.

Matatandaan na minsan nang sinaklolan ni Luis si Jessy. Napabalita na nuong nakaraang taong na nalasing di umano si Enrique Gil sa isang flight at kinukulit ang isang aktres. Si Jessy daw iyon.

Nagalit daw ang aktres at dito na sumingit si Luis at dinpensahan si Jessy.

So kung totoo nga na item na sila Luis at Jessy ang maaring isipin dito ay una munang naging bayani si Luis sa mata ni Jessy bago ito naging boyfriend?

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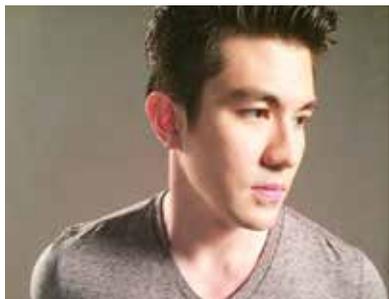
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LUIS

Isabelle Daza, ikakasal na

By Cristy Kasilag

SA ika-10 ng Setyembre ang kasal ng isa pang "It Girl" na si Isabelle Daza sa French niyang nobyo na si Adrien Semblat.

Ang kasalan ay magaganap sa Church of St. Francis sa Lucignano, Province of Arezzo sa Tuscany, Italy.

Ang kasuotan sa kasal ay summer suits with ties at summer cocktail dresses. Binilin nila sa mga bisita na hanggat maari ay wag magsuot ng itim na damit.

Gaganapin naman ang reception ng kasal sa Lecceta (Oak) Garden sa Castella Di Gargonza. Samantala ang dinner ay sa restaurant na La Torre Di Gargonza.

Isang tiyo na pari ni Isabelle ang magkakasal sa kanila. Sa katunayan, kahit na nasa Pilipinas pa sila ay ginagabayan na sila ng kanyang pari na kamag-anak.

"I want our wedding to be intimate and elegant... It will be a Catholic wedding," ang minsang sabi ng 27-anyos na dalaga.

Ang nakakalungkot lang na pangyayari ay, dalawang buwan bago ang kasal,



ISABELLE

namatay ang ama ni Isabelle.

Ang ama ni Isabelle na si Gabriel "Bong" Daza III ay pumanaw nuong ika-14 ng Hulyo dahil sa cardiac arrest sa Makati Medical Center.

Sa Instagram lamang ipinaalam ni Isabelle ang pagkamatay ng kanyang ama sa edad na 65.

Ikakasal si Isabelle sa 35-anyos na si Adrien, na country manager ng Adidas Philippines. Anim na taon na silang magkasintahan.

Dumating si Adrien sa Pilipinas nuong taon 2008 at nung taon din na yun nung pinakilala siya kay Isabelle ng mutual friend na si Karen Jardenli.

Hindi pa sigurado kung titigil na sa pag showbiz si Isabelle matapos silang ikasal.

Ilan sa mga malalapit na kaibigan ni Isabelle ang kinasal ngayon taon. Nung Abril lamang ay kinasal ang pinsan niyang na si Georgina Wilson sa isang Briton.

Encantadia trends on Twitter

By Jiji Sampan

FOR Encantadia fans all over the world, the pilot episode of the Kapuso series' present-day version, which premiered worldwide on GMA Pinoy TV last July 18, was worth the 11-year wait.

Even prior to its pilot telecast, Encantadiks (as how fans of the show refer to themselves) have been expressing their excitement on social media to witness the beginning of the Kapuso Network's retelling of one of its biggest and more successful fantasy series.

Minutes after the big launch, the hashtag #Encantadia became the number one trending topic on Twitter in the Philippines and worldwide as fans, old and new, took to the micro-blogging site to express their support and admiration for the return of the Kapuso show.

With the bar already set so high, viewers can expect no less than a visual feast in every episode, coupled with a riveting storyline that is truly Filipino in values and content.

"There's so much more reasons to watch the show. Encantadia's sequel is one of the biggest projects in Philippine television. It's the story that you're going to get," promised Encantadia director, Mark Reyes, who also directed the original version.

"Ang naging paghahanda rito [The preparations for this]—from the costumes to the script to the set hanggang sa graphics, lahat [to the graphics, and everything else]—three times bigger sa unang version [is three times bigger than the first version]," he shared.

Featuring a powerhouse cast, Encantadia 2016 is led by Kylie Padilla, Gabbi Garcia, Sanya Lopez, and Glaiza De Castro as the four Sang'gres or keeper of the four precious elemental stones that are integral to maintaining peace and order in the land of Encantadia. Playing special roles are Kapuso Primetime King and Queen Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera-Dantes as Raquim and Ynang Reyna Minea.

To subscribe to GMA Pinoy TV, visit the website www.gmapinoy.tv.



ENCANTADIA cast

Billy at Coleen naghelicopter

By Cristy Kasilag

HINDI naging hadlang ang matinding traffic para kina Billy Joe Crawford at Coleen Garcia sa celebration ng kanilang second anniversary bilang magkasintahan.

Kumuha si Billy ng isang helicopter para dalhin sila sa Tagaytay kung saan nananghalian ang dalawa.

Dahil nakasakay sila sa helicopter ay naka-iwas sila sa matinding traffic. At dahil sorpresa ito ni Billy Joe sa babang kanyang inibig ay naging mas romantiko pa ang kanilang celebration.

Pinakita pa nga ni Coleen, gamit ang kanyang Instagram account, ang ilan sa mga views habang sila ay nasa himpapawid. Parehas na taga ABS-CBN at co-host sa pangtanhalian na variety show na "It's Showtime!" ang dalawa.

Opisyal na naging sila nuong taong 2014.

Labing-isang taon ang agwat nila sa isa't-isa pero tila nananatiling matatag ang kanilang pagsasama.

Ang mensahe ng 34-anyos na si Billy Joe sa kanyang Instagram account para sa kanyang mahal ay: "It's been the greatest 2 years of my life love! Full of happiness, learning experiences, amazing roads that zig zag from time to time."

"We've been up, we've been down, but God keeps us strong and my trust and faith in Him got stronger knowing that I have one of His angels fighting by my side. I love you," aniya.

Dinagdag pa niya na kahit hindi siya perpekto na tao ay nakikita ni Coleen kung ano ang mga magagandang katangian niya. Utang niya ang buhay niya kay Coleen at mahal na mahal niya ito.

Si Coleen din naman ay nagpahayag din ng kanyang pasasalamat at pagmamahal para kay Billy Joe.

"I'm so blessed to have found someone who has truly turned my life into the greatest and craziest adventure yet. You are the one person who brings out the best in me because you always inspire me to be better, try harder and come out stronger in every single thing I do, and I owe that to you," sabi ni Coleen.

"You've brought so much color into my life in just the span of two years, and I just know that the following years will be even more vibrant," aniya.



BILLY at COLEEN

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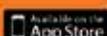
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Horoscope

Capricorn December 22 to January 19
Kung ikaw ang nakatatanda, kailangan mong magpasensya. Kung ikaw naman ang nakababata, kailangan mong matutong gumalang.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18
Huwag sayangin ang oras. Gugulin ito sa mga bagay na makakatulong sa iyo upang umunlad ang iyong buhay.

Pisces February 19 to March 20
Wala namang masama sa pangangarap. Siguruhin lang na habang nangangarap ka ay gumagawa ka ng paraan upang matupad ito.

Aries March 21 to April 19
Maging malapit sa pamilya. Magsikap upang patatagin at patibayin ang pagsasama ng iyong pamilya.

Taurus April 20 to May 20
Minsan kailangan lang natin ng lakas na loob. Walang mangyayari kung hindi ka kikilos upang makamit ang gusto mo.

Gemini May 21 to June 20
Piliin ang adventure. Malungkot ang buhay kung hindi mo bibigyang pagkakataon na i-explore ang mundo.

Cancer June 21 to July 22
Huwag padadala sa kung ano ang nakikita. Ang mga bagay na tunay na mahalaga ay wala sa pisikal na anyo.

Leo July 23 to August 22
Mabuti nang maging maingat sa mga pinaniniwalaan. Hindi lahat ng sabi-sabi ay totoo.

Virgo August 23 to September 22
Pinagpapala ang mga mababait at mabubuti. Maging bukas sa pagtulong sa iba.

Libra September 23 to October 22
Maging mabuting halimbawa sa mga tao sa paligid mo. Sa panahon ngayon kailangan ng mundo ng mga taong may magandang asal.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21
Tanggapin na hindi mo na maibabalik ang nakaraan. Ang mainam ngayon ay ayusin ang buhay mo at itama ang mga pagkakamali.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21
Kung hindi mo susubukan, hindi mo malalaman kung kaya mo. Mabuti nang sumubok ka kaysa hindi.

What's Cooking?

Bring your love for noodle to the next level with this issue's featured recipe, **Egg Noodle Stir Fry with Chicken & Spring Onion**. All you need is a few tasty ingredients, your love for cooking, and a bit of imagination to make this mouth-watering dish which is perfect for lunch, merienda, or dinner. Happy cooking!

Ingredients:
Egg noodle (about 250 gms)
Chicken breasts (boiled and cut into cubes)
2 segments of garlic (thinly sliced)
¼ cup of spring onions
Seasoning: ¼ cup of lime juice, 1 tbsp. of caster sugar, 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce, salt & pepper to taste, 2 pcs. of boiled egg

Method:
Heat oil in a large skillet or work over medium

high heat. Cook garlic in oil for 30 seconds and then stir with boiled chicken. Add in the seasoning: lime, sugar, Worcestershire sauce. Season with salt & pepper and then mix with egg noodles until well done. Toss together with the spring onions.

Garnish with boiled eggs and serve warm.

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre Room 502, 5/F, Winfull Commercial Bldg., # 172-176 Wing Lok St. Sheung Wan, Hong Kong. For enquiries, please call at 2850 7714 / 2850 7724.



By Chef Jay Dator



Anak: Di ba nanay, bawal isukat ang wedding gown dahil baka hindi matuloy ang kasal?
Nanay: Oo iyon daw ang pamahiin.
Anak: Try ko kaya isukat ang school uniform.
Nanay: Bakit?
Anak: Baka hindi din matuloy ang klase!

Bata: Ale, may scotch tape kayong tigpi-piso?
Ale: Meron
Bata: Magkano po?

Multo: Awooooo!
Bata: Naku huwag po!
Multo: OK

Juan: Use anyhow and anyone in a sentence
Pedro: Sirit
Juan: Pambihira naman! Sinong kumain ng anyhow na anyone ko sa mesa?

Teacher: Pedro, sabi mo kaya ka nag-absent kahapon dahil nilalagat ka! Bakit nakita ka daw na nagsu-swimming?
Pedro: Ma'am hindi po totoo iyan!
Teacher: Paano mo nasabi?
Pedro: May mga ticket po ako ng sine na magpapatunay!

Juan: Waiter, isa ngang kape!
Waiter: Decaf po ba?
Juan: Niloloko mo ba ako? Siyempre naman! Alangan namang dePlate!

Juan: Pare, ang bilis kong nabuo itong puzzle! Maning-mani!
Pedro: Talaga? Gaano kabilis?
Juan: 5 months lang!
Pedro: Ano? Ang tagal naman nun!
Juan: Matagal ba iyon? Nakalagay kasi dito "3 years and up"

Teacher: Bakit ka nalate?
Estudyante: Naholdap po ako ma'am!
Teacher: Ano kinuha sa iyo?
Estudyante: Yung assignment ko ma'am! Huhuhu!

Hinahanap ng tulisan sina Juan, Pedro at Berting. Nagtago sila sa sako ng kamote sa isang bodega...

Tulisan: Saan na kaya sila?
Bigla niyang nakita ang tatlong sako...
Tulisan: Hmmm, baka nagtatago lang iyong mga iyon dito.
Sinipa niya ang sako 1...
Juan: Meow, meow...
Tulisan: Pusa lang pala eh. Eto kaya? Sinipa ang sako 2...
Pedro: Arf, arf...
Tulisan: Aso lang pala.
Sinipa ang sako 3...
Berting: (tahimik lang)
Sinipa ulit ang sako 3...
Berting: (tahimik pa din)
Sinipa nang sinipa ang sako...
Berting: Ano ba? Kamote ako, wala akong sounds!

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- 1 Indinpende
- 6 Tamo
- 11 Bulyaw
- 12 Palaki
- 13 Bati sa Hawaii
- 14 Klaro
- 15 Epekto
- 16 Malambot
- 17 Sabaw ng sinaing
- 18 Pinagtapyasan ng kahoy
- 19 Brand ng kotse
- 21 Animo
- 22 Kalihim ng DOH
- 25 Komedyanteng Herrero
- 27 __ Shaddai
- 28 Igjit
- 30 Juan o Antonio
- 32 Lugar
- 33 Lasang ibinibigay

ng asukal

- 34 Totoy
- 35 Bato sa hiyas
- 36 Nag-iisa
- 37 Bansa

PABABA

- 1 Ilaban
- 2 Pinagnilayan
- 3 Daloy
- 4 Palapa ng saging
- 5 Habag
- 6 Liham
- 7 Katulong
- 8 Magwagi
- 9 Palos
- 10 Halakhak
- 16 Paos
- 18 Hindi pantay
- 20 Timplahan ng asin
- 23 Pangalang pambabae

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15					16				
17				18					
19		20		21			22	23	24
		25	26					27	
28						30	31		
32						33			
34						35			
36						37			

Answer to last puzzle

K	A	L	I	W	A			P	A	G
A	G	A	W	I	N			P	A	L
G	I	M	I	K		B	A	K	A	L
A	L	O		A	L	I	S	A	G	A
T	A	G		A	B	A	Y	A		
			L	I	B	I	S			
	A	B	A	L	A			B	A	Y
I	P	A	T	A	G	O		A	L	A
H	I	L	A	W		R	U	R	O	K
I	L	A	K		M	A	K	I	N	A
P	A	T			I	S	A	L	A	G

- 24 Kulay ng kabayo
- 26 Malaking hipon
- 28 Tuyong sapa
- 29 Tatak ng rubber shoes
- 30 Paraan ng pagluluto
- 31 Sawa
- 33 Tabulation: daglat



Kaagapay sa Tagumpay!

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*Ginagampanan ang pangarap na sinimulan
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