

HONG KONG NEWS

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Govt to start wage consultations

FDHs ask for \$5K minimum wage



WAGE HIKE. Foreign domestic workers march in Victoria Park to demand a minimum monthly wage of \$5,000 and regulated working hours in this file photo taken on Labor Day. The government is expected to decide next month whether or not to increase the salary of FDHs. (Philip C. Tubeza)

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S that time of the year again.

A group of Filipino domestic workers is asking the government to increase

to \$5,000 the minimum allowable wage (MAW) for foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong by October.

Dolores Balladares, chair of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-MI-

GRANTE-HK), said they will ask for a \$790 wage hike for FDHs at the Labour Department on Monday (August 15).

"This Monday na ang consultation na pinatawag ng Labour. Isa't kalahating oras

(ang consultation meeting). Nagtawag na sila ng mga migrant groups. Our demand is \$5,000," Balladares said in an interview.

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Former President and now special envoy to China Fidel V. Ramos visits HK to meet with friends who are close to Beijing.



The POLO is planning to hold "mass registrations" for OFWs who are not yet registered with the BM Online.



After a 22-year absence, the Miss Universe beauty pageant will return to Manila next year.



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FVR eyes 'golf diplomacy' with China

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

FORMER Philippine president Fidel V. Ramos is banking on golf and old friendships to fulfill his duties as President Duterte's special envoy to China in an effort to rekindle "warm relations" between Manila and Beijing.

Ramos, accompanied by wife Ming and a grandson, faced Hong Kong-based media in a press conference at the Philippine Consulate General on August 9.

"I am here on a fishing expedition and we'll play a little golf, and many of my friends are from around here to Shenzhen to Zhuhai up to Guangzhou," he said.

Specifically, Ramos named Wu Shichun, president of the Hainan-headquartered National Institute for South China Sea Studies, as one of those he will be meeting during his "very flexible" four-to-five-day stay in Hong Kong.

He said he would be meeting "old friends" who have links to high officials



Ramos (second from right) speaks with journalists at a press conference

in Beijing.

"There is no very serious planning about this. My job is not to negotiate, but to help pave the way, break the ice, so to speak, and rekindle the friendship that we had

"I am here in Hong Kong... because it is from Hong Kong that we easily go where we might go, meaning Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and even Xiamen, and also Haikou

in Hainan," the 88-year-old Ramos said.

Any visit to Beijing, he added, would depend on the outcome of his "informal, non-official meetings" and to the decision of Duterte after an evaluation of Ramos' trip to Hong Kong.

In meeting with these friends, he added that Manila and Beijing shared common points of interest that they could dis-

cuss including tourism, common fishing grounds, and trade, among others.

Asked how he would respond if his friends from China told him that a condition for the resumption of talks between Manila and Beijing is to disregard the July 12 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Ramos said he would tell them to "talk to our officials".

"I'll say 'don't talk to me anymore, talk to our officials' because that's the official phase that will lead to the nature of our future relations, but I'm just saying we must all be cognizant of this need," he added.

Ramos also said the Philippines would pursue both bilateral and multilateral talks to address the South China Sea dispute.

"Our approach right now and this is why we are here is bilateral [talks] with China and of course mine is just informal, casual, and unofficial, but I am very positive that it can be successful," he said.

The Netherlands-based court ruled that Beijing had 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 against Beijing, which refused to participate in the case, saying the tribunal had "no jurisdiction" over the issue.

The tribunal said Beijing's historical rights "were extinguished to the extent they were incompatible with the exclusive economic zones provided for in the Convention" - referring to the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas or the UNCLOS.

"China had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights in the exclusive economic zone by interfering with Philippine fishing and petroleum exploration, by constructing artificial islands and failing to prevent Filipino fishermen from fishing in the zone," the PCA said.

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New complaints vs Emry's

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A fresh batch of 67 complaints against Emry's employment agency was forwarded by the Philippine Consulate General to the Hong Kong authorities.

Lorna Mojica, Assistance to Nationals section officer at the PCG, said 43 complaints were forwarded on July 26, and 24 complaints on August 3 to the Hong Kong Police and the Employment Agencies Administration of the Labour

Department.

Mojica said the police have been calling the complainants to ask them if they wanted to pursue their refund claims at the Small Claims Tribunal.

From June 28 to July 14, the PCG had forwarded to Hong Kong authorities 178 complaints against Emrys.

Complainants said they paid at least \$10,000 each so their papers to work in the UK or Canada could be processed.

Labor Attache' Jalilo dela Torre in

June said they have temporarily stopped processing contracts from 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. The owner of Emry's insisted to POLO officials that she did not intend to dupe the jobseekers and promised that she would refund them. She claimed that she was the one who was duped by her contact in the UK.

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Transgender Pinay takes govt to court

By Philip C. Tubeza

A Filipino transgender woman has asked the High Court to declare as unconstitutional the decision of Hong Kong authorities to send her to a prison for men.

Luigi R. Navarro, 21, also complained that she was not given hormone treatment when she was locked up at the Siu Lam Psychiatric Center and that she was strip-searched by male prison officers.

"Prison rules are unconstitutional," said Clive Grossman SC, the Filipino's lawyer.

Navarro was arrested in June 2014 for illegal drugs and was sentenced to 13 months in prison. She is now back in the Philippines.

Barrister Earl Deng, Navarro's other lawyer, said his client asked that she be given hormone treatment—she had been receiving it since she was 12—but it took six months before that request was granted.

The delay supposedly affected Navarro's hair, voice, and Adam's apple.

Taking up the cudgels for the government, Barrister Lisa Wong said prison officials did their best to respect Navarro's rights, considering that they also had to



The High Court in Admiralty

look after other prisoners.

She said Navarro could not have been imprisoned with female prisoners because prison officials also had to consider their welfare. Wong said Navarro was "completely segregated" from male prisoners during her time in jail.

"She was not allowed to mingle with them. The Commissioner for Correctional Services had precisely taken account of her special vulnerability and had made special arrangements to protect her,"

Wong said.

She said that, when Navarro was going to take a bath or go to the toilet, all the other male prisoners were told to leave first.

"It was a prison setting. He was not invited to a tea party. It wasn't ideal but it was appropriate under the circumstances," she said.

Wong added that of the 94 transgender prisoners brought to Siu Lam since 2010, Navarro was first one to ask and get hormone treatment.

POLO plans to hold civil service exam in November

By Philip C. Tubeza

LABOR Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre has proposed holding civil service exams in November here in Hong Kong.

Dela Torre said the Civil Service Commission earlier suggested that the exam be held next month but he turned it down because the Professional Regulation Commission is holding a licensure exam for teachers (LET).

"OK na yung civil service exam pero ang gusto nila September. Ang sabi ko, 'Impossible.' Kako, anong gagawin ninyo sa amin? Papatayin ninyo kami?" Dela Torre jokingly said in an interview.

"Nagcounter ako na November para at least may time. Hindi pa sila nakasagot kung OK sila sa November," he added.

Dela Torre said that those who want to take the civil service exam should be at least 18 years old and should have finished a four-year course in college. There is no age limit.

"Yung mga registered professionals--mga PRC board passers-- may automatic (civil service) eligibility sila," he said.

"Maraming gustong kumuha niyan kasi maraming trabaho sa gobyerno," he added.

Meanwhile, the number of applicants

for the LET next month has reached 696. He said there were 334 applicants for the exam for elementary teachers. Five of the applicants are from Macau.

The PRC will email the Philippine Overseas Labor Office the final list of examinees and they will have to pay a fee of US\$45.

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; 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.

"Teachers are considered to be the prime mover of the education system," he said.

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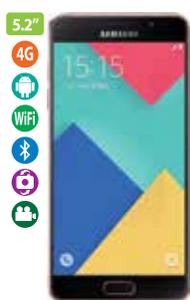
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NAIA x-ray screeners again in hot water

By Bing Jabadan

MANILA---Office for Transportation Security (OTS) personnel are again in hot water after a Filipina tourist was able to sneak out almost one kilo of cocaine without being detected from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) general manager Ed Monreal said he ordered an investigation on how the tourist, identified as Ann Raian Santos Cruz, 37, was able to fly out of NAIA to Hong Kong with P4.5 million worth of cocaine in her handbag.

"Firstly, we start our investigation with the airlines to find out where Cruz took her flight to Hong Kong (and) what flight she took. From there, we can establish what time she departed and the identities of the OTS personnel on duty at the time she passed through the terminal," Monreal said.

The MIAA chief said he ordered security officials to conduct a thorough investigation on all officials manning the initial and final security screening at the NAIA terminals 1, 2 and 3.

Some OTS personnel were earlier linked to the "tanim-bala" controversy and MIAA is gradually replacing them



Cruz's bag

with airport police.

Cruz, who claimed she was a telephone operator, was arrested by Hong Kong customs officials upon her arrival from Manila on July 30 at the Chek Lap Kok international airport. She was charged with

drug trafficking at the Tsuen Wan Magistrates Courts the following day.

The Filipina was caught with around 700 grams of suspected cocaine in her handbag with a street value of \$750,000.

This was the first reported case of drug

trafficking from Manila since the Duterte administration assumed power on July 1.

Customs officials reported that during a spot x-ray check of her luggage, they noticed suspicious images of what was inside her handbag.

A thorough examination revealed two slabs of suspected cocaine, the first one weighing about 330 grams and the second, 390 grams. They were concealed in false compartments of the bag.

"The big question mark now is: If the OTS personnel claimed that they could find a bullet as small as a bullet for a caliber 22, how come they failed to detect the cocaine despite of the intense campaign of President Duterte against illegal drugs?" said an airport official who requested anonymity.

Under Hong Kong's Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence.

While there is no death penalty here, convicted drug traffickers could face life imprisonment and a fine of \$5 million.

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FDH in drug case asks for more time

By Philip C. Tubeza

A Filipino domestic helper from Dubai asked for more time to consider her plea after she was caught with more than \$3 million worth of cocaine at the airport.

Imelda Gimena Penascosa's lawyer asked Eastern Courts Magistrate Jason Wan on July 29 to adjourn the trafficking in dangerous drugs case against her for four weeks.

"She needs time to consider her plea," the lawyer said.

Judge Wan set the next hearing on the

case to August 26 and had Penascosa re-manded in jail.

The prosecution said government laboratory tests showed that she was carrying 3.067 kilos of cocaine when she was caught on February 13. Officials initially said she was carrying 4.4 kilograms.

"Customs officers found three snack boxes inside the rucksack she carried. In-depth examination led to the discovery of 248 pellets of suspected cocaine with a total weight of about 4.4 kilograms and a market value of about 4.8 million," said a government officer after her arrest.



One of the pellets from Penascosa

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How HK FDHs could take custody of kids

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

FILIPINO domestic workers who want to take custody of their children owing to a number of reasons are urged to seek the assistance of the Social Welfare officer at the Philippine Consulate General.

Elizabeth Lim Dy, Social Welfare Attache at the PCG, said she has been coordinating with the Department of Social Welfare and Development to facilitate cases involving Filipino mothers who are working in Hong Kong.

She cited two cases involving Filipino domestic workers who sought the transfer of the custody of their children from the paternal grandparents to their own parents.

The first case involved 35-year-old Ria (not her real name), who wanted to take the custody of her two-year-old child from the parents of her deceased common-law husband. Ria has two children from her estranged husband. The eldest is taken care of by her husband's parents. The second child - 13-year-old Marie (not her real name) - is under the care of Ria's parents, who live in Cagayan Valley.

However, it was revealed that Ria got involved with a married man, Ernie (not his real name), while here in Hong Kong and they had a child, unbeknown to her parents. Ernie was also married.

Ria took a two-month vacation in the Philippines in June 2013 without informing her family and that she left her baby to Ernie and his parents and came back to Hong Kong to work here.

After a misunderstanding last year, Ria

was informed that Ernie committed suicide and died on November 5, 2015.

Following Ernie's death, Ria decided to take custody of her child and revealed to her parents the existence of her third child.

According to a June 6, 2016 letter of Dy to DSWD-Field Office II in Cagayan, Ria made a request to the Office of the Social Welfare Attache at the PCG to transfer the custody of her child from Ernie's parents, who live in Kalinga Province. Ria said that despite providing financial support to her child, she was barred by Ernie's parents from communicating with her daughter.

The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office in Cagayan assessed the capability of Ria's parents to take care of the minor, and found that the couple were "capable to provide support and security to the child."

To avoid protracted legal proceedings, Ernie's parents agreed to give up the custody of the child.

Another case, meanwhile, gave the chance to a Filipino mother working in Hong Kong to bond with her eight-year-old daughter Rina (not her real name) who initially chose to stay with her paternal grandparents in South Cotabato.

Dy forwarded the request of Lani (not her real name) to the DSWD office in Quezon City, which in turn sent it to the DSWD Field Office XII. Lani said her husband was living in Manila with another woman and that she would rather have her mother take care of her child. She said she was worried about her daughter's security and that the latter was distant to her when-

ever they talk on the phone.

On July 7, a case conference was held at the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office in South Cotabato, attended by 10 persons including Lani, Rina, the child's biological father Eddie (not his real name), the child's paternal grandparents; Lani's mother, and social workers.

When Rina was told about her mother's decision to take her back, the child said she would rather stay with her father and her grandparents because they were already taking care of her. Owing to Rina's statement, the social workers then recommended not to compel the child to permanently stay with Lani, who told the social workers that she was planning to stay for good in the Philippines.

Instead the social workers recommended that Rina spend time with her mother Lani in Cebu from July 8-17. After this period, Rina will then be sent back to her grandparents in South Cotabato.

Lani however had to come back to Hong Kong to finish her contract, and informed Dy that she had not sent Rina back to South Cotabato because they had bonded already and that she had enrolled her child to a school in Cebu. In the meantime, Rina is staying with Lani's mother in Cebu.

Dy said Ria and Lani's cases showed a way for Filipino mothers working in Hong Kong to take custody of their children from their husbands or in-laws as long as they could provide valid reasons for doing so and that they have relatives who would be more suitable caretakers of their children.



Social Welfare Attache Elizabeth Lim Dy helps two FDHs get their children back.

Department of Health urges vigilance vs dengue fever

By Peter Castillo

THE Department of Health (DH) urged the public to maintain its vigilance against dengue fever (DF) as the number of dengue cases rose to 68, including two from the Philippines.

"In view of the relatively high dengue activity in some neighboring and overseas areas, the public should remain vigilant. Travelers to dengue endemic areas during summer vacation should use DEET-containing insect repellents both during travel and for 14 days after arrival back in Hong Kong," a spokesman for the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) said.

From July 29 to August 4, five additional imported cases were confirmed. The patients had been to Indonesia (three cases) and the Philippines (two cases) during the incubation period. As of August 4, a total of 68 cases had been confirmed this year and all were imported.

The CHP has been closely monitoring the latest regional and overseas dengue situation

"In Brazil, the dengue activity is high, with ongoing local transmission of Zika virus and other endemic diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. As these diseases are all mosquito-borne, travellers to Brazil should stay alert and strictly follow

steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip," the spokesman said.

DF is transmitted to humans through the bites of infective female Aedes mosquitoes. The public are reminded to follow anti-mosquito measures when travelling to areas where DF is endemic in order to prevent DF.

When a patient suffering from DF is bitten by a vector mosquito, the mosquito is infected and it may spread the disease by biting other people.

In Hong Kong, the principal vector, Aedes aegypti, has not been found in recent years but Aedes albopictus is widely present so there is a risk of secondary spread of DF from imported infections.

Dengue viruses encompass four different serotypes. The symptoms of first infection with one serotype are usually mild, but subsequent infections with other serotypes even years afterward are more likely to result in severe dengue, also known as dengue haemorrhagic fever. Severe dengue is serious and potentially fatal.

"At present, there is no locally registered dengue vaccine available in Hong Kong. Strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures remain the most effective means against DF both locally and during travel," the spokesman added.



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'Mass registration' eyed for BM Online

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) is planning to hold "mass registrations" for the Balik-Manggagawa (BM) Online system so that Filipino workers returning to their employers abroad need

not apply for overseas employment certificates (OECs).

Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre said the POLO was planning to hold mass registrations in different parts of Hong Kong for overseas Filipino workers.

"Iniisip din namin mag mass registration

sa iba't-ibang lugar to encourage them to register para di na magkukumahug sa last minute," Dela Torre said.

He also urged OFWs who have yet to register with the BM Online system and are planning to go on vacation to drop by the POLO two weeks before they go

home.

"A few weeks before they leave HK, dumaan sila dito para magregister. We are ready to assist them. May 18 na computers dito," Dela Torre said.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) earlier approved a resolution exempting on a "pilot project basis" qualified OFWs from getting OECs.

Dolores Balladares, chairperson of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-MIGRANTE-HK), hailed the POEA decision.

She urged everyone to wait for the implementing rules of the board resolution as these might do away with the need to register with the BM Online system.

"This has been a long-running concern of OFWs as we deem the OEC as a useless profit-making document that has only caused nothing but inconvenience for us," said Balladares.

The OEC is a document required by the government to enable exemption of OFWs

from paying the travel and airport taxes.

Balladares said the OEC was redundant because OFWs already have multiple documents, including their contract and passport with working visa, showing the legitimacy of their overseas workers status.

"All the OEC does is to force us to spend almost the whole of our dayoff falling in line at the Consulate to get the document. Or force us to travel all the way to the POEA and get subjected to even more payments if we fail to get the OEC from the overseas post," she stated.

In a resolution dated August 5, the POEA board exempted OFWs who are returning to the same employer or jobsite and have existing records with the POEA and those hired through the Government Placement Branch.

But to get an exemption, the OFW should be a registered member of the POEA's BM Online system.

"The worker has to register in the system...to validate if she/he is exempted from obtaining the OEC," it said.




Balladares calls for the OEC's abolition

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FDH jailed for not returning lost iPhone

By Philip C. Tubeza

THEY tried to keep the news from her daughter.

A Filipino domestic helper was sentenced to prison after she found an iPhone but did not turn it over to authorities in Sai Wan Ho.

Eastern Magistrate Chu Chung-keung sentenced Rosalia E.C. to six months in jail after he found her guilty of theft by finding after trial.

"I have considered the facts of the case and the mitigation provided by your lawyer. I impose a sentence of six months imprisonment," Magistrate Chu said on

August 4.

Rosalia was overseeing the two children of her employer while they were playing at their condo's clubhouse when she saw an iPhone 6 Plus lying around.

The domestic worker picked it up but did not turn it over to the security officers of the clubhouse or their building.

Rosalia claimed that because she was too busy with her two wards, she forgot to turn over the phone to the security officers or the police.

Two days later, the police came knocking at their door. The owner of the phone had reported the missing iPhone and CCTV footage showed that Rosalia

picked it up. The domestic worker was arrested for theft.

Rosalias' relatives, including two sisters who work as domestic helpers here in Hong Kong, tried to keep the news from her daughter, who is a graduating college student and is now doing her on-the-job training.

"She is a single mother after being separated from her husband in 2011. Her marital life was not very good due to his extra-marital affairs," her lawyer said.

The Filipina came here to find work in 2012 so that her daughter could continue her schooling after she and her husband parted ways.

The domestic worker earned \$5,300 a month and \$3,000 was sent back to the Philippines every month for her daughter's education and expenses.

"In any event, her contract has been terminated. She has lost everything: her job and the opportunity to work here again," Rosalia's daughter said.



iPhone 6Plus

Pinay to be tried for shop theft

A 40-year-old Filipino domestic worker is set to be tried for stealing more than \$300 worth of goods from a supermarket in Tseung Kwan O (TKO).

Mila N.B. was charged with theft at the Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts but she insisted that she only forgot to pay the goods from the Wellcome supermarket at the Beverly Garden Shopping Centre in TKO.

The domestic worker was accused of trying to steal \$363.7 worth of groceries, including one packet of beef ribs, two packets of pork, one bottle of Lee Kum Kee soy sauce, one can of luncheon meat, one can of sliced pineapples, three packets of Lee Kum Kee soy sauce, and five packets of noodles.

The incident allegedly happened at around 8:34 a.m. on July 12 when the store manager saw Mila "acting suspiciously" and so the manager followed her.

"Defendant went behind a pillar and put the (stolen goods) inside a black recycle bag and another recycle bag, colored red and white," the prosecutor said.

Mila then went to the cashier but she paid only for four cup noodles. Without paying for the other groceries, the defendant went out of the store. The manager followed the Filipina and accosted her eventually.

The police were called and, during the initial investigation, Mila denied stealing the other grocery items.

"She said she only forgot to pay for them," the prosecutor said.

Kwun Tong Principal Magistrate Ernest Lin set the trial for the Filipina on August 24, unless the prosecution and the defense agree that she be bound over.

Philip C. Tubeza



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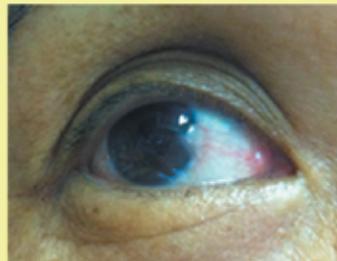


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FDHs

From page 1

She said her group conducted a study which showed that foreign domestic workers should get \$5,334.91 to meet their basic needs while in Hong Kong.

"However, we are asking for \$5,000 a month because we are also aware that the wage of employers has not significantly

increased in the past years," Balladares said.

"Siyempre, unlike before the yung mga rich lang ang may kasambahay, ngayon marami na ring mga employer na hindi mayaman, she added.

Balladares said they considered the rising cost of living in Hong Kong, the working hours of domestic workers, and the need for a "living wage."

"Tumaas ang inflation so nagtaasan ang binabayad namin sa transportation, pagka-

in, at ibang mga gastusin para sa personal necessities," Balladares said.

"Yung isang meal aabot na sa \$50 wala pa duon yung inumin," she added.

Balladares said that even local workers were asking for an increase in their salaries because of the rising cost of living.

"Tumataas kasi talaga yung cost of living dito sa Hong Kong," she said, adding that foreign domestic workers also work long hours.

"That is why we are also campaigning

for regulated working hours kasi talo talaga kami, lalo na live-in karamihan sa amin," Balladares added.

However, it remains to be seen if the government is going to give in to the workers' demands, especially since Hong Kong's economy is said to be in its worst time in the last 20 years.

The government last increased the MAW for foreign domestic helpers in September last year from \$4,110 to \$4,210 per month.

It also increased the food allowance for FDHs from not less than \$964 to not less than \$995 per month. Employers may either give their FDHs free food or the food allowance.

"The Government reviews the MAW regularly. We have carefully considered HK's general economic and labour market situations, as reflected through a basket of economic indicators, including the relevant income movement and price change," a government spokesman said then.

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Pinays warned vs cleaning windows

By Philip C. Tubeza

LABOR Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre has warned Filipino domestic workers against cleaning the windows of their employer's flats in high-rise condos, especially if there is no ledge or balcony outside.

Dela Torre said cleaning the windows from outside is "not ordinarily part" of the duties of FDHs and that newly-arrived domestic workers are reminded about this.

"That's not ordinarily part of your duties kasi may mga building management cleaners. Yung sa inside windows na lang ang linisin, lalo na pag walang ledge o balcony," Dela Torre said in an interview.

"Delikado. Huwag na silang mag-attempt niyan," he added.

Dela Torre issued the warning after a 35-year-old FDH fell to her death in LOHAS Park on August 8.

He said the Philippine Overseas Labor

Office was already assisting the victim's family, including her nine-year-old son.

"Single mother siya. Entitled (yung anak sa) full scholarship all the way to college basta maipakita yung birth certificate at nandun ang pangalan ng mother. Kahit hindi siya nakadeclare ng beneficiary," Dela Torre said.

A relative of the worker asked for help from the Philippine Consulate General and sought a thorough investigation.

According to Dela Torre, an aunt of the dead helper, who is also a domestic worker, went to the consulate on August 10 and said that her niece had a quarrel with her employer a day before her death.

"Apparently, the day before the OFW fell, parang naterminate ba siya o tinerminate ng amo. Nag-away," Dela Torre said.

He said that, according to the aunt, the worker returned to her building but did not find her employer and so she decided to

sleep.

"Pagkagising niya near midnight, nakita niya yung employer nanunuod ng TV. Hindi siya pinansin," Dela Torre said.

"Inassume niya na OK lang (so) kinau-magahan, she resumed her duties which included the cleaning of the windows," he added.

Dela Torre said the aunt and the worker communicated with each other before she cleaned the windows. The employer was reportedly not home at the time and the police has ruled out foul play.

"Nag-usap sila ng tita na maglilinis siya ng bintana," he said.

The worker fell from her employer's flat on the 49th floor and was declared dead on the spot when the police found her remains. Dela Torre said the aunt was also wondering as someone had apparently un-installed a messenger app on the victim's phone.

Mga Katungkulan ng mga Dayuhang Kasambahay






Umiwas sa labis na pangungutang. Huwag bayaran ang iyong ahensiya sa pamamagitan ng pag-utang sa kahit na anong kumpanya na nagpapautang kahit na hilingin ito ng ahensiya.



Gawin lamang ang mgaambahay na tungkulin para sa pamamahay ng amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata. Huwag manilbihan para sa ibang tao bukod sa iyong amo.



Umiwas sa "job-hopping". Kadalasan hindi pinapayagan ang pagpalit ng amo habang wasto pa ang iyong kasalukuyang kontrata maliban sa pambihirang pangyayari. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung aabusuhin ang pagputol sa kontrata nang wala sa panahon.



Mayroon kang libreng tutuluyan sa pamamahay ng iyong amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata, at ditto ka lang puwedeng tumira. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung titira ka sa labas kahit na pinayagan o binayaran ito ng iyong amo.



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Farewell, Mongolia

By S. Mendizabal

“Family is more important.”

From vast steppes and deserts of outer Mongolia, overseas Filipino worker Marizon C. Ortega is now back in Zamboanga teaching Filipino students to dream big.

Ortega, a 32-year-old science teacher, spent seven years teaching in the land of Genghis Khan and the Mongols when she decided last year to come home for good for her family.

“Financially, it’s much ok abroad. But, you know, family is more important especially the relationship. Now, I have the opportunity to guide my kids, and I can do the role as a mom, which I was not able to do,” Ortega said.

“And then I can now attend to the needs of my husband when he arrives and my bonding with my kids and husband become stronger. The emotional and psychological part becomes stronger,” she added.

And thanks to the “Sa Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma’am/Sir” program, Ortega found a teaching job in Zamboanga so she could continue to financially support her family.

“Being an OFW is a very tough job. I know it, because I have experienced being one for a long time. You are not just affected because of distance but you also fear for your safety,” Ortega said.

Ortega’s journey abroad began when

she decided to look for a job overseas in 2008 because life was hard in Zamboanga City. She was her family’s sole breadwinner. Besides taking care of her husband and children, she also had to support her sick father who needed medical attention and her siblings who were still in school.

Earning P8,000 a month teaching at the Tagbao National High School, a public school located in the mountainous area in Cebu City, Ortega thought hard and then decided to pursue a job overseas.

There was an offer for her to teach in Mongolia. And so on August 27, 2008, a day after her birthday, her dream of working abroad bore fruit. She was only 25.

Despite her apprehensions about teaching uncooperative foreign students, she grabbed the opportunity and brought her three-year experience as a high school science teacher in the Philippines to the Ulaan Baatar Elite International School in Mongolia. The school was administered by Turkish nationals.

During her stay there, she became the head of Science Department and coordinator of the Science Olympiad. She received a monthly salary of US\$800 (P37,000) plus overtime pay at US\$8 per hour and tutorials.

Then in 2014, she again faced a fork in the road.

Faced with the near completion of her

work contract and an opportunity for renewal for another three years, Ortega found herself thinking hard and long, whether to continue her teaching stint or to go back to the country for good.

“During that time, I have made up my mind to return back to the Philippines. It was the last year of my contract and I did not intend to renew for another three years since I really wanted to go home. My husband convinced me to go home since that time he was also applying to work abroad as a seaman,” Ortega said.

“We were faced with the scenario that if both of us will work abroad, what will happen to our children? My husband argued and told me about the importance of money or family? We thought that family was more important,” she said.

Ortega said she decided to go home since she had sent her siblings to school and they were ready to graduate. She added that she also wanted to “compensate” for her absence and “provide the time, company and guidance” for her children.

Ortega felt her family life was deteriorating due to the distance, since for many years she was away from her husband and their children. Facing fears and the uncertainty of going back to the Philippines jobless, Ortega applied online for a teaching position and sent her applications to several schools in the Philippines.



Mongolia

Then in September 2014, she came across an online article about the “Sa Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma’am/Sir” program for OFWs who have already passed the Licensure Exam for Teachers.

Ortega inquired with the Department of Education about the program, which is an initiative of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) to re-direct OFW-teachers so that they can pursue or resume teaching in the Philippines.

In December 2014, Ortega received the information she needed to apply the program. By January 2015, she applied online by filling up the survey form. Her online application bore fruit when, upon landing in Manila in June 2015, she received good news.

“I got the news that I was part of the program. During that time, I was at the airport in Manila for my domestic flight bound

for Zamboanga City,” Ortega said.

“It was around the afternoon that I got hold of the list provided by the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) thru Facebook. Ms. Jennifer Cunanan of NRCO called me up for instructions and I was really very happy,” she said.

“I was thinking that after I will arrive in Zamboanga, the following day I will visit the DepED district office relative to my inclusion in the program. It’s really timely,” she added.

Ortega is now working as a regular science teacher and a Human Resource Designate at the Zamboanga City National High School West in Zamboanga City.

“The only shield that you have is your prayers and faith to the Almighty God that everything will be in the right place. So, just be very strong always and look at the brighter side of life,” Ortega said.

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- Hindi pinahihintulutan ang bayad bilang kapalit sa legal na araw ng pahinga.
- Kung ang legal na araw ng pahinga ay tumama sa araw ng pahinga, ang araw ng pahinga ay dapat ibigay kasunod sa araw ng pahinga.
- Ang kapalit na araw ng pahinga ay dapat ayusin sa loob ng 60 araw bago o pagkatapos ng legal na araw ng pahinga kung kailangan magtrabaho ng katulong pangtahanan sa araw ng pahinga.



Mga Araw ng Pahinga

- Isang dayuhan na katulong pangtahanan:
 - ay dapat may kahit **1 araw ng pahinga** tuwing 7 araw; at
 - maaaring magtrabaho sa pagkukusa sa araw ng pahinga.
- Dapat huwag pilitin ng amo ang isang katulong na magtrabaho sa araw ng pahinga.



Taunang Bakasyon

- Karapatan nang isang dayuhan na katulong pangtahanan ang nabayaran na taunang bakasyon pagkatapos magsilbi sa parehong amo tuwing 12 buwan sa sumusunod na halaga:
 - 7 araw sa bawat pang-una at pangalawang taon nang serbisyo; at
 - umpisa sa pangatlong taon, ang bilang ay nadadagdagan ng 1 araw sa bawat taon hanggang sa pinakamataas ay 14 na araw.



Rody orders Marcos burial

By Maia Lopez

IT'S final: Deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos will finally be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani next month despite protests from Martial Law victims and human rights advocates.

Duterte said that as a former president and soldier, Marcos was qualified to be buried in the special cemetery.

"I will allow him to be buried there. He is qualified to be buried there. If other Filipinos don't like it, that's fine," he said.

Marcos' family has kept his preserved body on display after he died in exile in 1989. Duterte, whose father served in the late dictator's Cabinet, said that he himself had even voted for Marcos before.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines, however, scored the plan to bury Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, saying he changed parts of history to support his claim of being a war hero.

Duterte, however, stood firm on his decision.



Imelda Marcos kisses the glass coffin of Ferdinand Marcos

"There is a law that must be followed. He was a soldier. He was there to fight for his country," he said.

Marcos' son, former Senator Ferdinand Jr., said arrangements are being made for a Sept. 18 burial.

"It has always been our family's position that it is our father's right under the law to be buried there being a former soldier and President of our country. Our campaign

has always been towards achieving unity to move the country forward," the younger Marcos said.

"And it is this kind of pronouncement that we hope could end the decades of divisiveness imposed upon us by our leaders," he added.

However, Senate President Pro Tempore Franklin Drilon urged the President to reconsider his decision, saying the sensitive

issue would divide the people and reopen the wounds of the past. Senator Francis Pangilinan also objected to burying the former President at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Burying a murderer and a thief in the Libingan ng mga Bayani is not moving on. It is teaching our children to honor murderers and plunderers. It is not going to heal the nation nor will it unite us. It will only deeply divide us, reopen deep wounds of those who suffered, causing them to relive the gnawing pain and memory of loved ones jailed, tortured, murdered, salvaged or who disappeared because of the tyranny and oppression of the dictatorship," Pangilinan said.

Commission on Human Rights chairperson Chito Gascon, also opposed a hero's burial for the late president, noting that there were over 200,000 victims of human rights abuses under the Marcos regime.

The defense department has already ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to prepare for burial.

157 govt execs named in admin's latest drug list

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has publicly named 157 judges, mayors, police and military men allegedly involved in narcotics and vowed to release more names of lawmakers and governors in the next wave of revelations.

"Due process has nothing to do with my mouth. There are no proceedings here,

no lawyers," he said as he announced the names of seven judges, over 50 current or former congressmen, mayors and other local officials, and about 100 retired or active police officers and soldiers whom he said were involved in the drug trade or were protectors of drug lords.

"If you show the slightest violence in the resistance, I will tell the police, 'Shoot them'," he said.

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Ceasefire with NPA withdrawn

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte withdrew the truce he had earlier declared with the New People's Army, prompting Communist Party of the Philippines founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison to slam the commander-in-chief for issuing a "hollow and empty" ceasefire.

Duterte made the decision after the CPP-NPA failed to meet his deadline to declare a reciprocal truce after the rebels attacked a group of militiamen who were returning to base in Davao del Norte.

"Let me now announce that I am hereby ordering for the immediate lifting of the unilateral ceasefire that I ordered last July 25 against the communist rebels. I am ordering all security forces to be on high alert and continue to discharge their normal functions and mandate to neutralize all threats to national security, protect the citizenry, enforce the laws and maintain peace in the land," the President said.

Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya scored the rebels for failing to meet the President's demand.

But Sison, who was a former professor of Duterte in college, slammed the President for being "ill-tempered" and for acting like a bully and treating the CPP like his personal servant.

"Duterte is too quarrelsome and he immediately resorts to confrontation. If he does not want peace, then so be it," Sison said.

Duterte also gave another ultimatum to the NPA to stop using landmines, saying it was against the Geneva convention.

The President said should he hear any information that a soldier or a civilian died because of landmines, he will stop the peace negotiations.

"Stop the landmine or you tell the leaders (peace panel) or the government's panel to get out from the talks. Either you stop it, or we stop talking," Duterte said.

The second ultimatum was also rejected by the CPP-NPA, which instead ordered its troops to "expand use of command-detonated explosives (CDX) in launching tactical offensives against the reactionary armed forces."

"By setting such an ultimatum, after having yet to fulfill his own promise to release NDF consultants and political prisoners, smacks of a poorly-crafted deflectionary tactic, with the aim of blaming the revolutionary forces for the repeated postponement of peace talks," the communist rebels added.

Diaz wins medal in Rio

By Maia Lopez

WEIGHTLIFTER Hidilyn Diaz won an Olympic silver medal in the women's 53-kg division, becoming the first Filipina to win a medal in the games and ending a 20-year medal drought for the country.

"I would have been grateful with a bronze medal because that's what we were targeting. I would have been happy with a bronze medal. But God gave me the silver medal," said Diaz, a 25-year-old airwoman 2nd class with the Philippine Air Force.

Diaz is a veteran of three Olympics despite her youth, making her debut in Beijing eight years ago. In London four years later, she failed on all her clean and jerk attempts, prompting her to move down to a lighter class for Rio, which had just seven competitors.

The Zamboanga native, however, said she is not sure if she would continue competing all the way to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

President Rodrigo Duterte said he



Diaz

will host a grand welcome for Diaz in Malacañang.

"As the President of this country, I'm overjoyed. Silver is silver, no matter what you say, so I'd like to congratulate Miss Diaz for the honor that she has given us, the country," Duterte said.

"I'd like to wait for you and see you in the people's Palace in Malacañang. Thank you for your effort. I salute you," the President added.

The Philippines has won nine medals in the Olympics, all courtesy of male ath-

letes, since it first participated in 1924.

This is the third silver for the country after boxers Anthony Villanueva in the 1964 Tokyo Games and Onyok Velasco in the 1996 Atlanta Games. The Philippines has yet to win an Olympic gold.

A cash windfall of at least P5 million from the government and other incentives from private donors await her when she comes home.

Developer 8990 Deca Homes is giving Diaz a house and lot for her accomplishment.

Pinay arrested for ISIS links

By Maia Lopez

KUWAITI authorities have arrested a Filipina accused of pledging allegiance to the Islamic State terrorist group.

KUNA, Kuwait's official new agency, said the Filipina entered Kuwait in June.

The Interior Ministry said the woman, born in 1984, has been in contact with IS's affiliate in Libya. Security forces monitored one of the email accounts run by the Filipina and found messages in which she had contacted the Libyan group. KUNA said the Filipina used "fake name and nickname to evade monitoring."

"The accused confessed that she was ready to carry out any terrorist attack once circumstances and means were available to target a specific section of the society in order to undermine security and stability in Kuwait, as well as ignite sedition," KUNA said in its report.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said the Philippine embassy in Kuwait has yet to be officially notified of the arrest.

"Our Embassy will request access to the detainee to determine her identity and establish the circumstances of her case. If warranted, our Embassy will extend the necessary consular and legal assistance," Jose said.

In January, three Filipinos were allegedly among the dozens of terrorist suspects arrested in Saudi Arabia, the online site Arab News said.

Arab News reported that 44 suspected jihadists, which also included five Syrians, four Yemenis, a Sudanese, and 31 Saudi nationals, were arrested in the operations conducted from December 23 to 31. Reports said IS had been recruiting in Mindanao.

Pinoy diplomat summoned

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has called US Ambassador Philip Goldberg a homosexual (bakla) and an annoying person (bwisit) over the latter's reaction to the President's controversial rape remarks during the campaign period.

Duterte's remarks prompted Washington to summon Philippine chargé d'affaires to the US Patrick Chuasoto to seek a clarification.

US Department of State spokeswoman Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau defended the US envoy, saying that Goldberg is a "multi-time ambassador."

"We've seen those inappropriate com-

ments made about Ambassador Goldberg. He's a multi-time ambassador, one of our most senior US diplomats," Trudeau said.

"We have asked the Philippines chargé to come into the State Department to clarify those remarks," she added.

During the campaign, Duterte was criticized over a campaign speech where he made remarks about the rape of Australian missionary Jacqueline Hammill, in which he said he wanted to have been the first to rape the Australian woman who was brutalized and murdered in a 1989 prison riot.

Australian Ambassador Amanda Gorely said over social networking site Twitter that rape and murder should never be trivialized.



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The Fashion Festival Season 2 finished with a bang last August 7 at the Ramada Hotel in Sai Ying Pun as 15 candidates vied for the prestigious title. The event, which is the brainchild of brothers Reign & Glenn Morcilla, featured the creations of multi-awarded Fashion Designer Louis Pangilinan, who owns Louis Pangilinan Fashion Empire in San Pablo & Lipa City. The organizers also thanked the candidates' official make up artist, Gutchie Gutierrez, and official photographer Onecho Gabinete as well as the donors and sponsors. Pictured here are this year's winners (from left) --1st runner-up Honey Grace Marcos, grand winner Aurora De Vera, and 2nd runner-up Mica Reyes.



The Search for Miss Prime General Ambassadors was held last Sunday (August 7) at the Bayanihan Center in Kennedy Town. The event was organized by Royale Business Club International, which was spearheaded by Marc Wilson Briones.



CARD OFW HK holds its skills training seminar at the Bayanihan Centre. The group will conduct its next financial literacy program on August 21, also at the Bayanihan Centre in Kennedy Town. For reservations and inquiries, please call 54238196/95296392.

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Is this what we want?

THE Philippines has been consistently featured in various international media outfits for one reason - President Duterte's war on drugs.

The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Al Jazeera, CNN, The Guardian, Deutsche Welle, Gulf News, Channel News Asia, Time have all recently reported either about the killings of drug suspects or the cramped conditions of Philippine jails further worsened by the war on drugs.

Duterte was, of course, elected by over 16.6 million voters in the May 2016 polls and his promise of change included waging a relentless war on illegal drugs in the Philippines. And people loved him for it.

But we are not sure whether the turn of events in the Philippines now, specifically on the streets of large urban areas, was what Duterte voters and supporters had in mind when they elected him.

And now, once more, the Philippines is gaining attention the world over because of the war on drugs. The coverage mostly raised an alarm on the rising number of killings, and the profile of victims - including the young and those otherwise engaged in productive activities.

So we ask these question now: Is this the kind of international media coverage about the Philippines that we want? Is this the image the Duterte administration wants to project to the world?



Equal Opportunities Commission

Pregnancy Discrimination

IN March 2016, the South China Morning Post reported a case in the District court where an Indonesian domestic worker lodged a complaint in the District Court on pregnancy discrimination under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance.

The newspaper cited that Waliyah who was 7 months pregnant was pressured to provide urine sample so her employer could perform a pregnancy test. After the test, she was given one month notice of termination of her contract. However, before her notice period was completed, she was told to leave the house. Due to the fact that her termination was on the grounds of pregnancy, Waliyah lodged a claim for pregnancy discrimination under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance. (SCMP 9 March 2016).

Hong Kong provides protection for pregnant women from discrimination under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO). The SDO prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex and marital status (single, married, divorcee or widower). Under the SDO, It is unlawful for an employer to make a hiring decision or to

terminate a person's contract based on her pregnancy. The same provision also applies to any employment agency in Hong Kong.

It is unlawful for an employment agency to refuse to provide service to a person due to her pregnancy. Therefore, a pregnant domestic worker has the right to complete her employment contract without being subjected to discrimination, unjustifiably modified working conditions or coercion to resign.

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

Remember to always note down the details of the incident(s) and content of the conversations which took place with respect to the discriminatory treatment. This information can be useful if you decide to lodge a complaint with the EOC.

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Currents

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Due Process

PANAHON na para lubos nating maunawaan ang termino na "due process" at kung para saan ba ito. Lalo pa ngayong umiinit ang debate sa ating lipunan kaugnay ng gyera sa droga ni Presidente Duterte. Araw-araw ay laman ng mga balita ang mga paghuli o kaya ay pagsuko at pati pagpatay sa mga adik at pusher ng illegal na droga.

Sa ngayon nga ay umaabot na sa mahigit 400 ang napatay sa ngalan ng gyera kontra-droga. Karamihan sa mga ito ay nagmula sa mga balitang "nanlaban" sa mga pulis ang mga hinuhuli kaya napatay. Yung iba naman ay biktima ng mga hindi kilalang mga vigilante. Ito'y nakakabahala na. Sunod-sunod at walang tigil. Lahat pa sila'y mula sa mga mahihirap. Di ba't hanggang sa ngayon ay wala ni isang malaki at mayamang drug lord ang naitumba ng mga police operations? Wala ring mga pagsugod at panghuhuli sa mga exclusive na subdivision.

Walang tumarget sa mga mayayamang nagpapakulong sa mga mahal na drogang "ecstasy".

Liban sa hindi pantay ang trato at kondukta sa kampanya kontra-droga sa mga mayaman at mahirap, lubos ding nakakabahala ang mga insidente ng pagkakapatay sa mga maliit na adik at pusher. Dapat itong imbetsigahan at baka bahagi lamang ng "paglilinis-bahay" ng mga matataas na opisyal sa guberno, kapulisan at militar na sangkot o protector sa mga sindikato.

Bagamat ako ay sumasang-ayon na dapat puksain ang malalang problema ng ilegal na droga sa bansa, hindi ako sang-ayon na ito ay sa pamamagitan ng paglabag sa karapatang-pantao at sa tinatawag ngang "due process".

Simple lang naman ang konsepto ng human rights at due process. Hindi ito para pangalagaan ang may kasalanan, kungdi para protektahan ang mga in-

osente lalo na mula sa pagkakamali o pang-aabuso ng kapangyarihan. Sa "due process", binibigyan ang sinuman - kahit na suspek - ng karapatan na magpaliwanag o idepensa ang sarili bago siya hatulan o parusahan. Karapatan mo kasi na ipagpalagay na ikaw ay inosente. Hindi porke isinumbong ka lang ng iyong kaaway o tsismis lang sa inyong baryo o barangay, agad-agad ikaw ay mahuhugahan na may sala. Ikaw ba, handa ka bang bitawan ang karapatan mong ito?

Ang aking apela: dapat ituloy-tuloy ang pag-imbetsiga at pagsampa ng kaso sa mga pulitiko at lokal na opisyal, heneral at mayayamang mga indibidwal habang maghunos-dili naman sa paggamit ng kamay-na-bakal sa mga kriminal na mahihirap. Dapat na ikondena ang walang habas na patayan sa ngalan ng gyera kontra-droga. Dapat itigil ang mga pagpatay na ito.

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,

Nakakabilib din pala ang paghahanda para sa bagyo ng mga tao dito sa Hong Kong.

Unang beses ko ho kasing maranasan ang bagyo dito nitong Agosto 2.

Bagamat katulad sa atin ay maya'y maya ang paalala sa papadating na bagyo, kahanga-hanga na pinapawi ng maaga ang mga trabahador dito. At habang nananalasa ang bagyo ay wala talagang pasok sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan at maging sa pribadong sector.

Sa atin kasi napansin ko na karaniwan ay ang mga nasa gobyerno lang ang nagkakaroon ng suspension ng trabaho kaya't ang ibang mga empleyado ay napipilitan pa ding pumasok o kaya ay magdusa sa pag-uwi dahil kailangan nilang manatili sa kanilang mga opisina.

Sa tingin ko ho kasi nalalagay lamang sa peligro at alanganin ang mga trabahador at manggagawa sa atin at maaring mas malaki pa ang maging pinsala nito para sa kanilang mga kumpanya.

Siguro panahon na din para ikonsidera sa atin na hindi lang suspensyon sa klase at sa gobyerno ang

magkaroon ng pamantayan sa panahon ng bagyo.

Maari naman kasing magkaroon ng option na makapagtrabaho sa bahay habang may bagyo at nang sa gayon kahit paano hindi nabibinbin ang trabahong kanilang gawin.

Inaasahan ko ho na magkaroon ng pagbabago sa atin ukol sa isyung ito.

Gumagalang,
Maan D.

HONG KONG NEWS

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Nakabasag dahil sa Pokemon

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

NAPAPANSIN ni Lorna, 26, dalaga, at tubong Bulacan, nitong mga nagdaang araw na ang alaga niya ay palakad-lakad hawak ang iPhone sa loob ng kabahayan.

Ang akala niya ay tinatamad lang lumabas dahil sa sobrang iniiit kaya sa bahay na

lang nag-eehersisyo.

May payo raw kasi ang mga doktor na kailangan sampung libong hakbang araw-araw para sa maganda ang kalusugan. Pabirong sinabi ni Lorna na mainit ang panahon kung sa labas maglalakad.

Maganda naman ang mood ng alaga kaya maayos ang sagot na bakit pa raw

lalabas ng bahay para lang manghuli ng Pokemon. Marami naman raw sa loob.

Nagtaka si Lorna kung ano ang sinasabi ng alaga. Akala naman niya tuloy nasisiranan na ito ng ulo dahil sa sobrang higpit ng mga magulang sa pag-aaral sa kagustuhang laging matataas ang grado ng bata.

Napansin ng alaga na nakatitig lang sa

kanya si Lorna kaya ipinaliwanag kung ano ang laro at i-download ito.

Natuto at nawili na rin si Lorna at sa kakahanap ay nasagi niya ang isa sa mga banga na nakapalamuti ng amo. Napaiyak siya at hindi niya alam kung sino ang dapat sisihin: ang sarili, alaga o ang Pokemon.

Sa galit at pagsisi ay tinanggal niya ang

laro sa kanyang iPhone at sinabi sa amo na nasagi niya ang banga habang naglilinis ng sahig gamit ang vacuum.

Sinabihan siya ng amo na sa susunod ay mag-ingat dahil mahal ang mga banga. Pinabayad siya ng \$300. Humingi ng pamanhin si Lorna at nagpasalamat sa Diyos dahil hindi nagalit ang amo.

Dapat manindigan sa mga paniniwala at prinsipyo

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

NAGPASALAMAT sa Diyos si Maria, 38, may asawa at anak, at tubong Sorsogon, dahil hindi siya napahamak sa maaring nangyari kung hindi niya naisipang itawag muna sa amo ang tungkol sa delivery at kung may dapat daw bang bayaran.

Marahil dahil may tiwala ang amo kay Maria ay nakalagay lang sa ibabaw ng piano ang perang nakalaan sa ano mang kakailanganing bilhin o bayaran ni Maria.

Kahit nasa bahay ang mga amo, kapag sinabi ni Maria na may bibilhin o kailangan niyang mamalengke, sasabihan lang siya na may pera sa ibabaw ng piano.

Kaya naman nang may mag door phone na delivery raw at maghanda raw ng pera ay dali-dali siyang nagbilang ng sinabing

ihandang halaga.

Habang naghihintay si Maria ay parang may bumulong sa kanya na tawagan ang amo at tanungin kung ano ang ipinadeliver at kung kailangan bayaran dahil wala namang nabanggit ang amo bago umalis.

Tamang-tama naman ang pagdating ng magdedeliver at ipinakausap ni Maria sa amo. Ang anak pala na nag-aaral sa ibang bansa ang nag-order online kaya pinahintay muna ang delivery man para tawagan at tanungin ang anak kung ano ang binili.

Sinabi naman ng anak na ipabalik at huwag bayaran ang delivery dahil wala sa usapan nila na magbabayad ng delivery charge. Pagdating ng amo ay sinabihan si Maria na good job daw. Tama raw yung ginawa na hindi basta na lang tinanggap at binayaran yung delivery.

Sira ang araw ni pangyaw



Bilang ni Digna ang pera

MAHALAGA ang bawat sentimo para kay Digna, 28, dalaga at tubong Aurora, dahil pinaghihirapan niya ito dito sa Hong Kong.

Kaya naman kapag magpapadala siya ng pera sa pamilya ay tinitingnan niya muna kung saan ang may mababang palitan. Matiyagang pumila si Digna at nagsulat ng pangalan ng padadalhan

niya kahit dati na siyang nagpapadala sa ahensiyang napili kasi nagbago raw sila ng sistema.

Dahil unang Linggo ng buwan kaya sadyang mahaba ang pila sa dami ng magpapadala. Pagdating ng bayaran ay iba ang halagang nakatala na sinisingil kay Digna, kaya nagtanong siya kung bakit magkaiba ang halaga.

Sinabi ng kahera na yung nasa listahan raw ay para sa ibang kompanya. Napamura si Digna sa inis kasi nagtiis daw siya sa mainit at mahabang pila pero mas mataas pa raw ng apat na dolyares ang kanyang ibibigay kaysa dun sa iba na hindi mainit at hindi gaanong mahaba ang pila.

Walang nagawa si Digna kundi ibigay ang halaga dahil ayaw niyang masayang ang pagod.

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Miss Universe, gaganapin sa Manila

By Cristy Kasilag

MARKAHAN na sa kalendaryo ang ika-30 ng Enero dahil sa Pilipinas gagawin ang prestiyosong Miss Universe 2017.

Isa ito sa pinagdarasal at talagang ikinampanya ni Miss Universe 2016 Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach na sa Pilipinas idaos ang Miss Universe 2017.

Nakipagkita si Wurtzbach, na nagmula sa Iligan City at Cagayan de Oro City, sa kapwa Mindanaoan niyang si President Rodrigo Roa Duterte nuong ika-18 ng Hulyo upang pag-usapan ang posibilidad na gawin sa bansa ang susunod na Miss Universe.

Sinamahan si Wurtzbach ng kanyang manager na si Esther Swan, Miss Universe President Paula Shugart, Shawn McClain, vice president for Marketing and Business Development, Department of Tourism



PIA

(DOT) Secretary Wanda Tulfo-Teo at si DOT Undersecretary Kat de Castro.

Ilang araw matapos ang kanilang pagpulong ay inanunsyo ni Tourism Secretary Teo na tuloy na ang pag host ng bansa sa ikatlong pagkakataon ng Miss Universe.

Dalawang beses na host ng Pilipinas ang Miss Universe Pageant: nuong 1974 at 1994.

Bago si Wurtzbach, dalawang Filipinas

na ang nakasungit ng titulo na Miss Universe. Ito ay sila Gloria Diaz nuong taong 1969 at si Margarita Moran-Floirendo, na inuwi ang korona nuong taong 1973.

Para sa pageant sa susunod na taon, ang pambato ng bansa ay si Maxine Medina, isang 25 anyos na interior designer.

Ngayon pa lang ay pinagpaplanuhan na kung saan gagawin ang mga pre-pageant shoots. May pinagpipilian na ang mga organizers at, liban sa Maynila, pupunta din ang mga candidato ng Miss Universe 2017 tulad ng Cagayan de Oro, Boracay, Cebu, Palawan, at Davao.

Sinabi ni Teo na hindi gagastos ang gobyerno ng Pilipinas para dito. Ang mga taga private sector ang magbibigay ng pondo para sa mga gastusin.

Kailangang makalikom ng US\$11 milyon para idaos ng maayos ang Miss Universe sa bansa.

FHM sexiest, binatikos

By Cristy Kasilag

INULAN muli ng batikos ang 2016 For Him Magazine (FHM) Sexiest Woman na si Jessy Mendiola matapos niyang sabihin niya sa Victory Party na "Talo ko pa si Pia Wurtzbach".

Binatikos din niya ng "spin" ang pinasikat ni Pia na mensahe na "confidently beautiful with a heart". Ang version ni Jessy ay, "Confidently sexy with a heart".

Ang tinutukoy ni Jessy ay si Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, ang kasalukuyang Miss Universe.

Sa ginawang survey ng FHM sa taon na ito, si Jessy ay numero uno samantalang si Pia ay pang-16 lamang.

Madami ang nainis at nayabangan sa 23-anyos na Kapamilya aktres.

Pero tila hindi intensyon ni Jessy na palabasin na mas sexy siya kay Pia at sinabing "taken out of context" ito.

Ipinaliwanag niya na naglolo-loko lamang siya at palagi pa nga niyang sinasabi na ang ka sexy-han ay iba-iba. Merong mga sexy na payat at meron din, tulad niya, na medyo malaman.



JESSY

Sa palagay niya ay wala siyang matinding panlalait na sinabi kay Pia. Para sa kanya ay isang biro lamang ito at na overwhelmed siya sa pagtrato ng publiko sa kanya, tinuring siya parang isang beauty queen.

Hindi naman ito pinatulan ng 26-anyos na si Miss Universe Pia. Ayon kay Queen P sa kanyang Twitter account, "What I saw was a girl who was just really ecstatic to be given that recognition. Nothing wrong with that. Congratulations, Jessy!"

Pinaabot na ni Jessy kay Pia ang kanyang pasasalamat. Kung si Pia nga daw ay nakita na isa lamang itong biro, bakit ang iba hindi ito maisip na biro lamang.

Melason naghiwalay na

By Cristy Kasilag

PILIT man nilang ipinaglaban, pero tila hindi para sa kanila ang "habangbuhay na pagmamahalan".

Kamakailan ay inamin ng showbiz couple na sila Melai Cantiveros at Jason Francisco na naghiwalay na sila.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagpost sa Instagram ay ipinalam nila sa publiko ang kanilang hiwalayan, tatlong taon mula nang sila ay ikinasal.

Ang dahilan ng hiwalayan? Ayon kay Jason, sinira ni Melai ang kanilang usapan na hindi siya magkakaroon ng partner sa television series na ipinalalabas sa ABS-CBN na "We Will Survive".

Ang usapan nilang mag-asawa ay sa pilot week lamang ng palabas maaring magkaroon ng on-screen partner si Melai, pero tila hindi niya sinunod ang pangako na yun.



JASON AT MELAI

Hindi rin daw kaagad napansin ni Jason ang on-screen partner ni Melai dahil abala rin siya sa show na "My Super D".

Mula nuon ay nagtampo na si Jason at sa ibang kwarto na ng kanilang bahay ito natutulong. Nagtagal ng dalawang buwan ang

ganitong set-up at di kalayuan ay madalas na silang mag-away. Ang mag-asawa ay may dalawang taong gulang na anak na babae---- si Amelia Lucille Francisco.

Ipinagtanggol naman ng 28-anyos na si Melai ang kanyang asawa at tinawag niya itong her "greatest love" at "destiny".

Sinabi rin ni Melai na kahit na sinabi na ni Jason na wala nang Melason, ipaglalan pa rin daw niya ang kanilang relasyon.

Ang kwento ng kanilang pag-iibigan ay nagsimula sa reality TV show na Pinoy Big Brother (PBB) Double Up Edition noong taong 2010.

Tinanggap ng mga manunuod ang dalawang naninirahan sa Bahay ni Kuya. Sa katunayan, pinagdikit ang kanilang mga pangalan at binansagan pa silang "Melason". Madalas magkapareha sina Melai at Jason at dito na umusbong ang kanilang pagmamahalan.

Nuong taong 2013, inamin ni Melai, na taga General Santos City, sa showbiz talkshow ni Boy Abunda na nagpakasal na sila ni Jason, na taga Calapan, Mindoro, at buntis sa una nilang anak. Nung ika-3 ng Abril taong 2014 ay pinanganak ang kaisa-isa nilang anak: si Amelia Lucille.

Unang napansin ng kanilang mga taga-hanga na merong lamat ang kanilang relasyon dahil sa kanilang mga post sa Instagram.

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'Pahingi po ng tulong'

By Cristy Kasilag

SI Lilia Cuntapay, ang matandang babae na madalas magbigay takot sa mga manonood ng horror films, ay humihingi ng tulong pinansyal para sa isang masealang operasyon sa likod.

Ang 81-anyos na na aktris, na nagbigay

giliw at takot at nakilala ng publiko dahil sa mahaba niyang puting buhok, bungal na bibig at kulubot na balat, ay kumakatakot ngayon sa mga puso ng mga nakatrabaho niya sa showbiz, at kung sino man ang may gustong tulongan siya.

Si Lilia, na tinaguriang "Queen of Philippine Horror Movies", ay nakakaranas ng

sakit sa likod at hindi na makalakad mula pa nuong ika-5 ng Hulyo.

Sa isang maikling upload na video sa Facebook, sinabi niya na: "Sa mga concerned citizens diyan, like yung mga directors ko, mga co-workers ko, wala na ako sa showbiz dahil may sakit ako... Kung mahal ninyo pa ako, any help will

be appreciated."

Ang kwento niya, matagal nang sumasakit ang likod niya pero hindi niya iyon masyado pinapansin. Ang akala niya bunga lang ito ng kanyang katandaan, pero higit sa edad pala ang dahilan.

Yung konti niyang naipon na pera ay naubos din sa pagbili ng gamot.



LILIA

Kapuso

network wins in TV ratings

By Jiji Sampan

GMA Network (GMA) opened the second half of the year on a positive note as it continued to prevail over competition in viewer-rich Urban Luzon last July, based on data from Nielsen TV Audience Measurement, the industry's trusted ratings service provider.

From July 1 to 31 (with the dates of July 24 to 31 based on overnight readings), GMA's average household audience share in Urban Luzon reached 39.7 percent, higher than ABS-CBN's 32.5 percent by 7.2 points, and TV5's 6.8 percent by 32.9 points.

GMA led across all dayparts, including primetime, in Urban Luzon, which accounts for 77 percent of the total urban TV household population in the country.

Kapuso shows also dominated the list of top-rating programs not only for Urban Luzon but for National Urban Television Audience Measurement (NUTAM) as well.

The much-awaited return of the fantasy series Encantadia, which is easily the Network's biggest offering so far for the year, ranked highest among all Kapuso shows in NUTAM and Urban Luzon.

It was closely followed by 24 Oras, Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho (KMJS), Pepito Manaloto, Magpakailanman, newly launched Koreanovela Descendants of the Sun, 24 Oras Weekend, Ismol Family, Poor Señorita, and Eat Bulaga.

Hay Bahay!, Once Again, Hanggang Makita Kang Muli, Sunday PinaSaya, Wowowin, and Imbestigador were also part of both the NUTAM and Urban Luzon lists.

Other top-rating Kapuso programs for the month were Lip Sync Battle Philippines, Juan Happy Love Story, Del Monte Kitchenomics, Magkaibang Mundo, and Karelasyon.

Moreover, while change has come with the first president from Mindanao taking office, Filipinos' trust on GMA Network remains steadfast with GMA News' "DU30: Unang SONA" special coverage emerging as the viewers' top choice during Duterte's first-ever State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 25.

Based on Nielsen data, "DU30: Unang SONA" garnered a 38 percent audience share among urban homes across the country.

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Horoscope



Capricorn December 22 to January 19
Bigyang halaga ang mga mahal sa buhay. Sila ang dahilan kung bakit nagtrabaho sa ibang bansa.



Aquarius January 20 to February 18
Huwag mahiyang magsabi ng tunay mong nararamdaman. Mabuti nang malinaw ang usapan.



Pisces February 19 to March 20
Maging matiyaga. Hindi mainam kung ang kawalan ng pasensya ang paiiralin.



Aries March 21 to April 19
Tanggapin ang paghingi ng paumanhin ng ibang tao. Lahat naman nagkakamali at ang mahalaga, natututo at pinagsisihan ito.



Taurus April 20 to May 20
Mag-move on ka na. Mahirap kung patuloy kang nakatali sa nakaraan.



Gemini May 21 to June 20
May mga bagay talagang kailangan nang magbago. Parte iyan ng buhay.



Cancer June 21 to July 22
May lungkot man ang buhay, tandaan na lilipas din ito. Manalang lang sa Maykapal.



Leo July 23 to August 22
Huwag mawalan ng pag-asa. Ipagpatuloy mo lang ang iyong pagsisikap.



Virgo August 23 to September 22
Alamin ang katotohanan. Pakinggan ang lahat ng partido.



Libra September 23 to October 22
Hingin ang tulong ng mga kaibigan sa problema mo. Handa silang tumulong sa iyo.



Scorpio October 23 to November 21
Maging matalino sa mga susunod na hakbang. Mag-ingat ka.



Sagittarius November 22 to December 21
Buksan ang mga mata sa mga tunay na pangyayari. Mahirap ang manatiling bulag sa mga kaganapan sa paligid mo.

What's Cooking?

As further testament to the creative uses of fungus in the kitchen, we present you with a unique but delicious recipe for this issue: Mussels with Black Fungus in Oyster Sauce. This delightful dish will not only satisfy your craving for seafood, but also provide much-needed nutrients. Happy cooking!

We would also like to send our greetings to Chef Jay, who celebrated his birthday on August 4. May you have more birthdays and blessings to come!

Ingredients:
Fresh Mussels meat 12 pcs.
Black fungus ½ cup
Crushed garlic 1/8 cup
1 medium carrot thinly slice
1 Tbsp. oyster sauce
1 tsp. chicken powder
2 slice of ginger thinly slice

Method:

1. Soak Black Fungus in hot water for about 30 minutes, cut in small parts. Set aside.
2. Meanwhile in a shallow pan, pan fry ginger, garlic, with mussels.
3. Add in the black fungus and slice carrots together with the seasonings, oyster sauce, chicken powder, pepper to taste.
4. Serve hot

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



Juan: Pare, teka may nalaglag kang pilik-mata. Dapat mag-wish ka.
Pedro: Ganun ba yun? Ang wish ko sana magkaroon ako ng maraming wish. At nalaglag lahat ng pilik-mata ni Pedro...

Noong eleksyon...
Pedro: Please vote wisely!
Juan: Sino si Wisely? Kandidato ba yun?

Misis: Iligaw mo nga itong pusang ito. Ang ingay eh!
Mister: OK Pagkalipas ng kalahating araw...
Misis: Bakit ka ginabi? Nailigaw mo ba iyong pusa?
Mister: Bwisit na pusa iyan! Kung hindi ko iyan sinundan, hindi na ako nakauwi!

Sa simbahan...

Pari: Ang lahat ng gustong magdonasyon ay tumayo pagtugtog ng organ. Sige tugtog.
Organista: Father, ano po ang tutugtugin ko?
Pari: Pambansang Awit

May isang genie na nagbigay ng wish sa isang lolo na 70-anyos
Lolo: Gawin mong 30 years younger sa akin ang misis ko!
Genie: Masusunod! (Poof)
Lolo: Ano nangyari?
Genie: Ginawa kitang 100 years old.

Nanay: Sabi ng teacher mo lagi ka daw late?
Juan: Kasalanan po iyan ng school!
Nanay: Bakit?
Juan: Lagi po nilang pinapatunog ang bell bago ako dumating!

Customer: Ang linis talaga ng restaurant ninyo!

Waiter: Salamat naman po. Bakit po ninyo nasabi?

Customer: Kasi lahat ng pagkain ninyo lasang sabon!

Nanay: Anak, ano gusto mong kurso sa kolehiyo?
Pedro: Political Science po para linisin ang kalat sa lipunan!
Nanay: Iyong kalat mo nga sa bahay hindi mo malinis, sa lipunan pa?

Habang nananalamin si misis
Misis: Honey, ang tanda ko na, mataba, puro kulubot at pangit na!
Mister: At least, malinaw pa din ang mata mo!

Sa Pinoy Henyo...

Juan: Tao?
Pedro: Oo!
Juan: Artista?
Pedro: Oo
Juan: Lumalabas sa TV?
Pedro: Oo
Juan: Sadako?

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- 1 Sandata ng alimango
- 5 Pagbibilad ng labada
- 9 Pag-ayon
- 10 Kakanin sa dahon
- 11 Kahabaan ng yantok
- 12 Bunganga ng ilog
- 13 Bitak
- 14 Dagil
- 15 Uri ng tula
- 16 Uri ng ngipin
- 18 Moog sa Texas
- 20 Baitang
- 23 Bisig: Ingles
- 25 Sigalot
- 26 Balasubas
- 28 Gapang
- 29 Malambot
- 30 Dating tawag

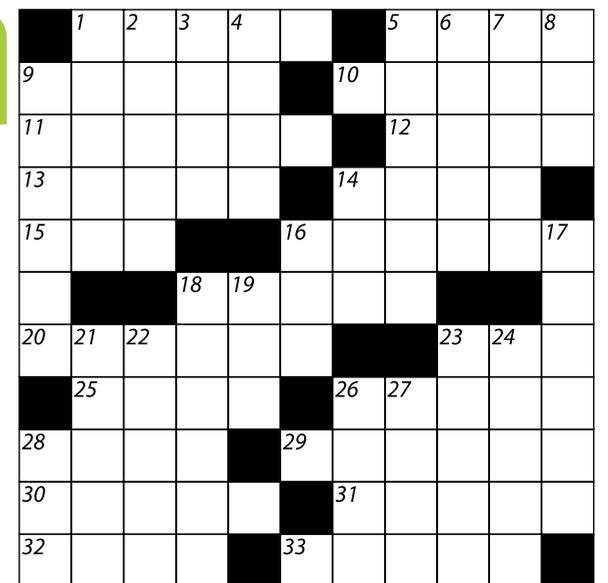
kay Dolphy

- 31 Boto
- 32 Bulong
- 33 Salig

PABABA

- 1 Pagsali sa usapan
- 2 Iwasto
- 3 Banas
- 4 Palos
- 5 Uri ng ibon
- 6 Bukang-liwayway
- 7 Mandaragit
- 8 Ms. Capri
- 9 Piit
- 14 Mr. Milby
- 16 Bendisyon kapag inulit
- 17 Hilakbot
- 18 Tatak ng sportswear
- 19 Latitude: daglat

- 21 Dahilan
- 22 Gunita
- 23 Sapantaha
- 24 Pagkakahiga dahil sa karamdaman
- 26 Palapa ng saging
- 27 Balita
- 28 Yanig



Answer to last puzzle

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



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