

HONG KONG NEWS

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PCG: Give food allowance to FDHs



DUTERTE GOING TO CHINA. Philippine President Duterte is set to visit China from October 18 to 21 for a state visit. Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said the South China Sea dispute will not be discussed with Chinese leaders. (Malacanang photo)

By Cheryl Arcibal and Philip Tubeza

THE Philippine Consulate General (PCG) has asked the Hong Kong government to include the food allowance of Filipino do-

mestic helpers (FDHs) in their salaries, a PCG official said.

Vice Consul Alex Vallespin said the PCG raised the matter with Labour Department officials during the technical

working group (TWG) meeting on September 27.

The HK government on September 30 increased the minimum allowable wage (MAW) of FDHs from \$4,210 to \$4,310

per month and their food allowance from \$995 to \$1,037 per month.

“We also raised na isama na ang food

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Migrant groups plan to go to court if FDHs are not covered by proposed standardized working hours rules.



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Discover the picturesque vistas of Ha Long Bay in Vietnam that have long captivated visitors.



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Filipino-Australian model Catriona Elisa Gray wins the Miss World-PH crown.



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Class suit eyed for FDH working hours

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

FILIPINO domestic workers are planning to take legal action should the Hong Kong government exclude them from any regulation that would standardize working hours in the territory.

On the sidelines of the 18th anniversary celebration of the Filipino Migrant Workers' Union (FMWU) on October 9, Eman Villanueva told Hong Kong News that they were not ruling out filing a class suit or seeking a judicial review if the Hong Kong government does not include foreign domestic workers in standardizing working hours in the city.

"Ito nakikita namin dito na medyo magbigat at mahabang laban pa ito. Siyempre hindi lang ang kalaban dito ang employers, ang number one na kalaban dito ay ang Hong Kong government," Villanueva said.

"Ang nase-sense namin ay ayaw talaga nilang isama ang mga migrant domestic



Villanueva

workers...Kung sakaling i-exclude nila ang migrant domestic workers, hindi namin inaalang ang posibilidad na mag-take din ng legal action kung sakaling darating sa ganoong punto," he said.

Villanueva said the Hong Kong government had been saying that standardizing working hours for employees and workers

here would erode the city's competitiveness.

This fear, he said, is unfounded as other cities that set shorter working hours for their employees and workers have remained competitive.

Hong Kong has wrapped up its three-month public consultation on standard working hours in August.

According to the UBS' annual "Prices and Earnings" study, workers in Hong Kong spent 50.11 hours a week at the

workplace, the longest hours out of the 71 global cities included in the poll.

Many foreign domestic workers have been complaining that they work between 12 and 18 hours a day to serve their employers.

Villanueva said if a law will be enacted to standardize working hours in the city, then they could seek a judicial review.

"If it's a law, [then kailangan linawin] kung ang exclusion [ng foreign domestic workers] ba ay unconstitutional. Kung mae-exclude kami, iyon ang isang aaralin at ikokunsulta sa legal experts," Villanueva said.

"Pwede kasing violation iyon ng Basic Law or international conventions kung saan ang Hong Kong ay signatory. Ang isang halimbawang nakikita namin diyan ay ang ILO (International Labour Organization) Convention no. 97 na nagsasabi na parehas dapat ang treatment sa lokal at migranteng manggagawa," he added.

Lee Cheuk Yan, General Secretary of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, expressed his support for the bid of Filipino domestic workers to be included in the standardization of working

hours.

"For many domestic workers [here], you toil for many hours per day, some for 16 to 18 hours. You are what we call on 24-hour call. Is that fair? No, and so what we are seeking is that there should be a balance for all workers - to have one [standard] for local workers and domestic workers," Lee told Filipino migrants during the FMWU anniversary program.

He added that the HKCTU has been supporting the FMWU's bid for decent wages and decent working hours.

"Some people [would] always attack me by saying 'Oh, Lee is supporting the domestic workers against the employers'. But I only say one word and that is fairness," he said.

"Everyone should have a decent wage for one day of hard work. We support you in your fight for decent pay and now we are talking about working hours regulation and we hope that all workers in Hong Kong should have working hours regulation including domestic workers...you should have some time free for yourself. That is only fair," Lee added.

Labatt looking at HKCEC for CSC exams

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) is eyeing the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) as the venue of civil service exams in November, Labor Attaché Jalilo dela Torre said.

Dela Torre said they needed a venue bigger than the Bayanihan Centre in Ken-

edy Town because the number of overseas Filipino workers who want to take the exam has reached 3,000.

"Scramble na kami sa venue dahil mga 3,000 na (ang examinees). We are looking at the HKCEC. We may have to bite the bullet," Dela Torre said.

Holding the exams at the HKCEC would cost \$100,000 but Dela Torre said they are also looking at other venues because the

number of examinees was still growing.

"We have examinees from Macau who are coming over because the exam was also announced there," Dela Torre said.

He said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) would provide the online registration link on its website (www.csc.gov.ph) when the registration period starts on October 31.

"Maglalabas ng resolution yung commission mismo. May communication na sila na itutulong ang exam sa Nov. 27," Dela Torre said.

Dela Torre also said that he asked the CSC to cut the exam fee from US\$45 to a more affordable amount.

"Nagrequest din ako kung pwedeng babaan kasi may nagreklamo," he said.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III has also asked the CSC to provide all the help needed by OFWs in HK who want to take the exam.

"Bilang bahagi ng kampanya ng Kagawaran ng Paggawa at Empleo (DOLE) na hikayatin ang ating mga OFW na muling bumalik at manatili na sa ating bansa, kami ay nakipag-ugnayan sa Komisyon ng Serbisyo Sibil (CSC), sa kanilang tagapangulo na si Alicia Dela Rosa-Bala, para sa pagsasagawa ng professional at sub-professional civil service exam para sa mga OFWs," Bello said.

"Maaaring magawaran ng professional o sub-professional eligibility ang sumailalim sa career service exam na kanilang kakailanganin upang maitalaga sa naayong posisyon sa gobyerno," he said.

"Bukas ang pagsusulit sa lahat ng Filipino indibidwal o iyong may hawak na dual citizenship, anuman ang kanyang tinapos, may edad na hindi bababa sa 18 taon sa araw ng pagsusumite ng aplikasyon, at hindi pa kumukuha ng kaparehong pagsusulit sa loob ng tatlong buwan bago ang petsa ng pagsusulit," he added.



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'Exchange rate could reach P50 to US\$1'

By Maia Lopez

THE President's tough talk could hurt the peso, which could fall to more than P50 to a US dollar, Fitch Ratings' BMI Research said in its latest report.

BMI said the peso's weakness in September was due to the "deteriorating investor sentiment" after Duterte criticized the US for speaking out against his bloody war on drugs.

The peso's weakest level this year was recorded on Sept. 30 at 48.50 to a dollar.



More money for OFWs

This was a seven-year low since September 2009 at the height of the global financial crisis.

"In the event that these fears translate into something more tangible leading to prolonged political uncertainty, we believe that a further slide of the peso beyond 50 to US dollar could be likely," BMI said.

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, for his part, downplayed concerns on the weakening peso.

"The depreciation of peso, as far as I'm concerned, is no cause for concern...We've seen the peso going to P55 in the past. The depreciation of the peso is a result of the strengthening of the dollar, more than the weakening of the peso," he said.

"And why is the dollar strengthening? Because of the impending increase in the interest rate by the Fed. This has been ongoing for several quarters already," Diokno added.

Asked if Duterte's controversial remarks contributed to the peso depreci-

ation, Diokno said it has "nothing to do with the President's statements."

Meanwhile American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines senior advisor John Forbes said investors from the US and Europe are now having second thoughts on the Philippines, with several manufacturing and business process out-

sourcing companies opting to put their investments on hold.

"The anti-American comments are beginning to harm some new opportunities for the Philippines, as we know several trade missions and BPO investment plans have been cancelled. This is regrettable," Forbes said.

"We do have information on cases of local European companies (in) manufacturing who put expansion on hold. We also sense hesitation from European firms to consider the Philippines as investment destination at this point," European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines president Guenter Taus added.

Duterte names DOJ official as new POEA administrator

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has appointed the head of the prosecutorial arm of the Department of Justice as the new chief of the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello said prosecutor general Claro Arellano will replace Hans Cacdac as POEA head.

Cacdac, on the other hand, was named administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

When asked about his plans for the agency, Cacdac said the order for him was to "bring the OWWA closer to the people, especially OFWs and their families."

Before assuming the top post at the POEA in 2012, Cacdac served as undersecretary for labor relations.

He joined the DOLE in 2004 as executive director of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board and moved to the POEA as deputy administrator for licensing and adjudication in 2006.

Other newly-appointed labor officials are Undersecretary Dominador Say (employment and policy of work cluster) and Undersecretary Danilo Cruz (regional and

special concerns cluster).

Both officials will join Labor Undersecretaries Ciriaco Lagunzad III and Joel Maglunsod.

Meanwhile, United Overseas Filipinos Worldwide (U-OFW) convenor John Monterona welcomed Cacdac's transfer to OWWA.

"We welcome Atty. Cacdac's transfer to OWWA. He performed well and instituted pro-OFW reforms in the POEA as its administrator," Monterona said.

He cited the intensified anti-illegal recruitment and anti-human trafficking campaign launched by Cacdac as one of his accomplishments as POEA chief.

According to Monterona, Cacdac also raised the level of commitment and responsibility of recruitment agencies in providing protection to deployed OFWs, especially the household services workers, who are most vulnerable to labor malpractices and abuses.

"Atty. Cacdac can be a good OWWA administrator and effective OFW trust fund manager. We expect him to continue his pro-OFW stand and from there come up policies and regulations that would benefit the OFWs and dependents," he said.



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ConGen: Don't be hardheaded

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONSUL General Bernardita Catalla appealed to Filipino workers in Hong Kong to be wary of persons offering jobs in other countries.

Catalla issued the call after a Filipino domestic worker sought her help after paying \$32,000 for a job in Russia that was apparently non-existent.

"Some people are so hardheaded. Even if they know there's illegal recruitment, they still believe all those promises," Catalla said during a recent media briefing.

She said the worker who emailed arrived in Hong Kong just this March but has lost her job after being offered work in Russia.

"She's now having problems because she's being recruited to Russia. This person already lost her job. She's now in Macau," Catalla said.

"She already paid \$32,000. She has a

problem because she has to move and exit to China or exit to Macau. I'm sure a lot of them still believe there are jobs out there in Russia, Turkey, Cyprus, Canada and the United Kingdom," she added.

Catalla said the Philippine Consulate General will go after the illegal recruiter who promised the non-existent job in Russia once the victim executes an affidavit at the Assistance to Nationals Section.

"If this person is identified and the agency is established, surely we will file a complaint. The helper will lodge a complaint against the person or agency and I'm sure the (HK) Department of Labour will address it," Catalla said.

She noted that, in a previous case involving the illegal recruitment of Filipino workers in Hong Kong for jobs in Turkey, the Labour Department suspended two agencies.

"We, here in the consulate, made representations with the consulate general of Turkey.



Catalla (second from the left) speaks to the media

Complaints were also lodged with the Department of Labour through our technical working group. I understand, at least two agencies were suspended and fined," she said.

"The problem here is that we learn about the problems only after a year or so

when our workers here in Hong Kong file complaints and execute affidavits against certain recruiters," she added.

The Philippines prohibits "third-country recruitment" or the hiring of Filipinos, who are already working abroad, for jobs in other foreign countries.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Hong Kong earlier this year suspended the biggest provider of Filipino domestic workers in the city after more than 200 domestic workers accused it of offering non-existent jobs in the United Kingdom and Canada.

As of September, at least 250 complainants have filed complaints against Emry's Employment Agency.

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

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

She claimed that she was also duped by her business partner in the UK who allegedly got the applicants' money.

She also complained about the POLO decision to stop the processing contracts submitted by Emry's, saying that this was done "without due process".

What can a raise of \$100 really do?

By Lenlen Mesina

THERE are mixed reactions on the announcement of a HK\$100 raise in the minimum wage for migrant domestic workers. HK\$100 may not be very much extra, but it is still extra money in the wallet and what is done with it, could change how far it goes.

Here are three scenarios:

Spend it: the HK\$100 can afford two-three simple meals from a regular restaurant (depending on where you will eat,) or more or less three cups of coffee from either Starbucks or Pacific Coffee (depending on the size.) It could go towards a regular donation to your church or a cause you care about, or the service fee for your mobile phone.

It can also cover remittance cable charge costs for when you send mon-

ey home. Spending the HK\$100 every month, won't make it last very long, but it could go towards a necessary cost.

Save it: Avoid spending the amount by automatically transferring the HK\$100 to a savings account. It would amass to a total HK\$2,400 in two years – extra money that then you can put towards one of your financial goals or strategically invest to grow further. Saving the HK\$100 every month will let it grow and perhaps go towards bigger purchases and goals you are working towards.

Invest it: Make your HK\$100 work for you while you put off spending it, by investing it. Research and carefully consider your investment options.

If put into an investment instrument with a six percent per year interest, it would be HK\$7,230 in five years. Especially if you are not in urgent need of

spending the extra income, investing the HK\$100 every month would allow you to gain the most out of your earnings.

We encourage migrant domestic workers to consider the options available for the additional money in their salary when they receive a raise. Taking time to weigh your options and following a plan can help to make the most of your money.

If you want to know more on how to extend the money you earn to make room in your budget, attend an Enrich workshop. Employers of domestic workers can also sponsor their domestic worker to attend the workshops.

For our latest workshop schedule and registration, visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/#!/event/1394777961>

(Mesina is the Executive Director of Enrich HK)

Disney performer convicted of sexually assaulting FDH

By Philip C. Tubeza

A 54-year-old Filipino performer in Disneyland Hong Kong was sentenced to 20 months in prison for sexually assaulting an Indonesian domestic worker.

District Court Judge W.K. Kwok on October 11 convicted Edwin S. Esguerra after he pleaded guilty to indecent assault on another person.

"This court has a duty to protect women. I cannot ignore that the sanctity of her body was violated by the defendant," Judge Kwok said.

The prosecution said the incident happened in Tung Chung at around 5 p.m. on March 3. Esguerra suddenly appeared at the door of the flat owned by the victim's employer, who was Esguerra's landlord.

Esguerra was drunk and asked the Indonesian if her employer was home.

"After she replied in the negative, the defendant grabbed (her) hand and pushed her into the flat and then onto the bed of her employer's bedroom," the prosecutor said.

"(He) tried to remove (her) apparel. (She) resisted and during the struggle attempted to free herself while (he) took off his clothes," she added.

The prosecutor said Esguerra removed her shorts and underwear, kissed and bit her breast, and then inserted his fingers in her vagina.

"When he found bloodstains on his fingers, he asked her in English what it was. (She) had just her period," the prosecutor said.

Pinay's stint in Happy Valley ends sadly

By Philip C. Tubeza

HER stay in Happy Valley ended in jail.

A 40-year-old Filipino domestic worker in Happy Valley was imprisoned for stealing nearly \$20,000 worth of jewelry from her employer.

Eastern Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-shing on October 4 sentenced Arabella A. Villanueva to three months in prison for stealing a wrist chain (\$7,000), a pendant ((\$1,400), a necklace (\$5,000), and another wrist chain (\$5,000) from her employer in 91 Wong Nai Chung Road.

"Inaamin ko po (I admit to it)," Villanueva tearfully told the judge.

The stolen pieces of jewelry, which were pawned, were not recovered when the police tried to recover them at the pawnshop, the prosecutor said.

She said the thefts happened between January and April of this year at the vic-

tim's home.

Villanueva started working as a domestic worker for the victim in May 2013, the prosecutor said.

On January 10, she stole the first wrist chain (worth \$7,000) and decided to pawn it. Seven days later, she took the pendant.

Not yet contented, she took the necklace on February 7 and then the last wrist chain on April 9.

The thefts were discovered only after her employer terminated Villanueva this month because she was becoming lousy at work.

The employer told her to immediately pack her things and, when the victim checked the defendant's room, she saw four pawn tickets near Villanueva's bed.

The employer confronted the defendant, who admitted to stealing the pieces of jewelry and pawning them.

The police arrived and arrested the

domestic worker. When investigators checked with the pawnshops, the stolen pieces of jewelry were already gone.

Villanueva's lawyer said she stole the jewelry because of greed and "financial pressure" from her family back in the Philippines.

"She committed it out of greed as well as due to the financial pressure from her family. That is why she behaved stupidly," he said.

The lawyer said Villanueva was remorseful and asked for leniency from the judge, who gave her a one-third discount on her jail sentence for her guilty plea.

The defendant has a 45-year-old husband back in the Philippines who is unemployed because he has a hernia, her lawyer said.

They have seven children—aged 7 to 23—and four of them are still in school, he added.

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MFMW extends project for employers

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A non-government organization helping migrant domestic workers in the city is launching a program seeking to educate employers about their duties and responsibilities.

Cynthia Abdon Tellez, Mission for Migrant Workers general manager, said the project aims at addressing the apparent gap in the information being received by employers about employing a foreign domestic worker.

"It takes two to tango. Kung ang sinasabi natin na migrants need help, baka tingin din natin sa employers they might be getting the wrong information or incomplete information," Abdon-Tellez said in an interview.

One of the complaints of foreign domestic workers was that while numerous seminars and workshops were intended to educate them about their rights and responsibilities, there seemed to be few, if at all, education campaigns for employers.

Abdon Tellez said the project will be launched through the MFMW's Facebook page.

"There are times when employer would rather do the meeting here to settle their differences with their worker," she said.

They also found that some employers were not aware that they were violating labor laws or that agency-related debts incurred by their domestic workers were illegal.

"Malaking tulong ito kasi ang mga employers sasabihin mo na naku hindi sila nagbayad, pero 'yun pala hindi nila alam na bawal iyon. Minsan naman mayroon kang nami-meet na employer na sasabihin nila, na 'mas malaki pa ang binayad ng hinire ko sa agency kaysa sa binayaran ko'. So mismo sila may concern sila so magandang magtulongan," she said.

Eventually, they will also have a hotline that employers could call to ask questions and seek help when needed.

"Dapat mayroong dalawang tao diyan at hindi 'yung kung sino na lang ang sasagot.

Sa Facebook, pwede din naming sabihin na 'from this date onwards, if you wish to ask for information' or if there are complicated cases, pwede namin silang i-direct sa respective government agencies.

"Thinking long-term, if you really want to see a caring, inclusive Hong Kong na may harmonious [relationship between employers and migrant workers] at sa tingin namin pwede iyon kaya mage-extend kami [ng services]," she said.

MFMW will also start a series of posts also on its Facebook page about feel-good stories between employers and migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong.

"Hindi naman lahat ay may problema. May positive stories with employers and bakit hindi namin i-popularize iyon?" Abdon Tellez said.

Meanwhile, Bethune House, a shelter for distressed migrant domestic workers run by MFMW, continues to appeal to various stakeholders for funds for their operation expenses.

Edwina Antonio, Bethune House executive director, said the shelter needs to raise funds after one of their major donors ended their support this year.

She said they became busy with a number of cases this year such as dog-biting incidents of domestic workers, and various labor cases and so they were not able to find a new sponsor.

Antonio cited the case of an Indonesian domestic worker who was made to take care of some 200 dogs and was bitten three times. Another case dog-biting incident involved a Filipino domestic worker.

"Mayroon din kaming kaso na parang may 19 aquariums at sa bawat aquarium, may 25 na isda at ang bawat isda may pangalan at kapag nalimutan mo ang pangalan o kapag namatay, may fine ka. May mga spiders na mayroon ding pangalan at kapag nawala may bawas din sa sweldo mo. Natataon pa ang mga among ganyan sa mga Indonesian," she said.

While the stories sounded preposterous, Antonio said the migrant workers produced proofs such as photos of the fish tanks, and the dogs.



Tellez

Another case involved a Filipina who was made to strip in the living room by her female employer after the domestic worker was accused of theft. The same employer also once watched while the Filipina was taking a bath.

"Dinudaraan siya, minumura siya, at ang cellphone niya, itinago. Dahil hindi niya matawagan ang pamilya niya, humiram siya sa isang Filipina, pinagbintangan siyang nagnakaw ng amo niya, pinakulong siya, tapos binail out din matapos sabihin nung isang Filipina na hiniram nga sa kanya yung cellphone," Antonio said.

An Indonesian migrant worker, who is also staying in the shelter, had suffered vaginal hernia and severe dermatitis after she was made to scrub and clean by hands the floors of her employer's house for 12 years.

"Two o three hours siyang naka-squat kasi ayaw siyang pagamitin ng mop at iba't ibang chemicals ang pinapagamit sa kanya. Nung tinanong namin kung bakit hindi siya nag-reklamo, sabi niya tiniis niya kasi may utang siya at may pinagaaral siya sa university," Antonio said.

MFMW, she added, also helped a number of Indonesian migrant workers who were charged with criminal cases after the Indonesian government updated their da-

tabase, leading to changes to the personal information of these workers in their passports.

She said that previously, passports of Indonesian migrant workers were processed by employment agencies there and some details of these workers did not match the Indonesian government's database.

"Nakipag-usap kami sa konsulado ng Indonesia, nag-consult kami sa lawyer, so these are the cases that we have been busy with," said Antonio.

The Indonesian Consulate has said that they were extending help to Indonesians who were facing court cases owing to the passport data correction.

Suara reported in May that the Consulate has been providing assistance to these migrant workers by accompanying them, paying for their bail, and other administrative costs relating to the cases.

"You may criticize us, but if you say we do not do anything to help them, [that is not true]," said Legal Consul Sri Kuncoro of the Indonesian Consulate.

He added that the Consulate has also given guidance, and even a written statement about the Indonesian government's passport data correction to the duty lawyers assigned to the cases of Indonesian migrant workers.

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FDH jailed for hitting boy on the head

By Philip C. Tubeza

A Filipino domestic helper in Happy Valley was jailed after she hit the head of her ward with her cellular phone because the boy would not do his homework.

Eastern Magistrate Jason Wan Siu-ming on October 7 sentenced Nelia S.A. to 14 days in prison after she pleaded guilty to the charge of "ill-treatment or neglect by those in charge of child or young person."

"I am sure that the defendant is very remorseful... You will be released immediately," Judge Wan told the crying Filipina.

The prosecution said the incident happened at around 5 p.m. on August 23 while the defendant was helping her ward, a six-year-old boy, with his home-

work.

Nelia told the boy to do his homework and "counted from one to six." When he would not listen, the domestic helper got angry and hit the boy on his forehead with her cellphone. It left a "reddish mark."

When the boy's parents arrived later, they saw the red mark and asked what happened. The boy said Nelia hit him on the head. The parents called the police, who arrested the domestic worker.

"It was done out of frustration while she was trying to help the boy with his homework," Nelia's lawyer told the court.

He noted that Nelia had worked with the boy's family since December 2011 and her employers did not have any serious complaint against her.

"She looked after the boy since he was one year and three months old. She loved this child," the lawyer said.

Because of what happened, the defendant's 17-year-old daughter back in the Philippines had to drop out of college. Nelia is a single parent.

The defendant had also been in prison since August 23, or much longer than her 14-day jail sentence. Another magistrate had allowed her to post bail but she did not have enough money to post a bail bond.

Her friends reportedly did not know she was in jail and she was not able to contact them while she was in prison.

Up to the time she was sentenced on October 7, Nelia was still hoping that she could go back to work for her employer.

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FDWs share hope, sorrow in new eBook

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THEY cry, smile, laugh, hope, and dream.

In "Wishing Well: Voices from Foreign Domestic Workers in Hong Kong and Beyond", 18 migrant workers wrote about their experiences in leaving behind their home countries and family and living and working in their employers' home.

The free-to-read eBook was launched by HelperChoice, a web-based platform that facilitates the hiring process between foreign domestic workers and employers in Hong Kong, Singapore, the Middle East, and other regions.

The eBook's title was taken from the final piece in the collection – "The Game That Binds".

"Cecil Calsas compares Hong Kong to a wishing well, 'where one throws a lucky coin and utters the dream of getting a good life,'" wrote Ju-chen Chen, a lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and one of the book's co-editors, in the introduction.

"Not all wishes are granted, not all dreams materialize and not all who arrived in high spirits go home alive," said Calsas.

The first section of the book called "Portraits" was described by Chen as pieces that "tend to take on a more upbeat and celebratory tone".

"Portraits"

Raquel Evangelista in her "Selfless" essay wrote that taking care of her employer's three children was like "caring for and loving my own son."

Monina Pitogo's poem "A Mother's Love" expressed her longing to hold her own child while taking care of other kids.

Eunice Sacliwan in "I Promised My Son a Toy" expressed that she was ready to endure the difficulties of being a foreign domestic worker to keep her promises of a toy, a pair of shoes, and clothes to her son.

"No matter how much it hurts, no matter how many tears and how much sweat I shed, I will keep those promises," she said.

"Whispers"

The second part of the book was called "whispers", whose pieces lean "toward the introspective and reflective."

"They showcase FDWs outside the workplace and tease out identities other than the worker, resembling a bustling chorus of 'whispers'," said Chen.

Riz Peher in the poem "Dreams (Never Come True)" shared why she had to put to rest her dream of becoming a professor.

She said that her decision to work as domestic helper paid off with all her siblings getting their university degree.

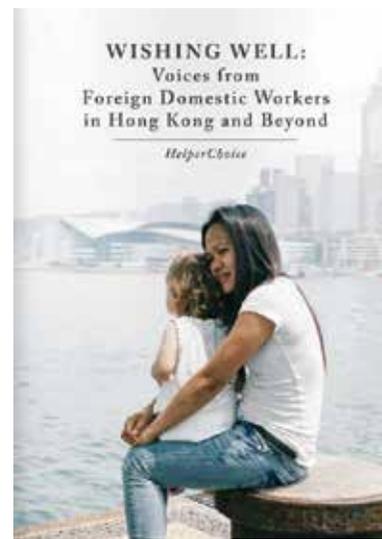
Arumy Cerpen's short story of "Sia in the Storm" expressed her conflicted feelings about taking care of her six-year-old ward (Linda) and leaving the care of her three-year-old toddler (Sia) to her mother.

"I ended up spending two years with Linda. The sweet girl made me fall in love with her, of course, without losing my love and guilt toward Sia," she said.

And when she finally came home, Cerpen said she was devastated to see Sia running away from her instead of giving her a hug.

Jacqueline Formento's poem "Remembrance" echoed Cerpen's sentiment.

She said that she feared her child's wrath, and the accusations and the silent



Cover of eBook "Wishing Well"

metallic anger when she left the kid.

Then there were essays by Monina Maria ("No One Really Knows"), and Frecel Paringit ("Flight"), detailing how living in a foreign land, and away from their family strengthened their faith.

"I may be trading a dark path right now, but I know that I will reach the end and finally see the light, in God's time," said Maria.

"Whatever storms life brings I will

never collapse, only be shaken, because I found God and he picked up my broken pieces," Paringit said.

And Calsas shared the story of the Philippine Sluggers women's baseball team in "The Game That Binds".

She said that through baseball, members of the team bonded by telling each other of their stories of sacrifices, stories told in between innings, and stories "that bind a team that became a family away from home."

The book was launched by HelperChoice so other entries submitted to HelperChoice's "Be a Journalist" competition in April could be published too.

"We hope that by reading this book, the public - and specifically employers - will gain a deeper understanding of the emotional journeys that their domestic helpers go through.

"These are incredible women who have given up so much to support their families. By understanding the adversities they endure, hopefully employers will be encouraged to treat their domestic workers better," said Laurence Fauchon, HelperChoice founder.

The eBook may be accessed online at https://issuu.com/helperchoice/docs/wishing_well_domestic_workers

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70K OFWs benefit from 'one-stop' shops

By Peter Castillo

NEARLY 70,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have benefited from the One-Stop Service Center for OFWs (OSSCO) at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in Mandaluyong, according to Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III.

Bello said that, as of late September, a total of 68,087 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) benefited from the services provided by OSSCO since it was launched in mid-August.

"We are happy that many of our OFWs availed of the services of the One-Stop Service Center. Ito naman ay inilagay ng ating gobyerno para makatulong sa kanila. Through the Center, all government front-line services are made accessible to Filipinos who are currently working or planning to work overseas," Bello said.

The POEA's OSSCO was launched on August 15, 2016. It now operates from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fri-

days.

Aside from shortening the time to process their documents, the one-stop shop is also aimed at reducing the expenses of OFWs since the services of concerned government agencies can already be availed of in just one location.

Citing a report from the POEA, Bello said that 19,022 OFWs availed of the documentation workers-on-leave/Balik Manggagawa (BM) of the POEA; 15,072 OFWs processed their membership/renewal to OWWA; 9,248 availed of the services of Philippine Health Insurance Corporation; 8,809 OFWs benefitted from the services of the Social Security System (SSS); and 4,203 OFWs processed their Pag-IBIG membership.

There were also 1,882 OFWs who were issued Certificates of Live Birth, Marriage, Death and No Marriage by the Philippine Statistics Authority; 2,258 OFWs were issued with NBI clearance; and 328 OFWs were issued professional license by the Professional Regulation Commission.

Bello added that One-Stop Service Centers were also established in Regions 8, 10, and 3.

The OSSCO in Region 8 is located at the DOLE Regional Office in Tacloban City. The Regional Office of OWWA in Cagayan de Oro City houses the OSSCO in Region 10. In Region 3, the OSSCO is at the Clark Free Port Zone in Angeles, Pampanga.

The government agencies providing services at the OSSCO are the POEA, OWWA, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Bureau of Immigration (BI), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);

Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth), Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig), Social Security System (SSS), and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Ex-FDH steals for the fourth time

NOT once but four times.

A former Filipino domestic helper who is now seeking asylum here in Hong Kong was jailed for the fourth time for theft.

Eastern Magistrate Jason Wan Siu-ming sentenced R. Latorre Jr., 40, to one month in prison for stealing shampoo and canned goods from a Wellcome supermarket in the Western District of Hong Kong island.

"You are convicted as charged," Judge Wan told the defendant after he pleaded guilty at the Eastern magistracy in Sai Wan Ho on October 5.

Investigators said the incident happened at around 4:25 p.m. on October 3 in a Wellcome supermarket along Queen's Road West.

A policeman on patrol noticed the defendant acting suspiciously before he entered the supermarket carrying a plastic bag. He left the supermarket only a few minutes later.

The policeman confronted Latorre and he saw three cans of spicy pork inside the plastic bag that the defendant was carrying. The officer frisked him and discovered "a sachet of shampoo" hidden in his clothes.

The policeman brought him back to the supermarket and the store manager confirmed that Latorre did not pay for the shampoo and canned goods. During investigation, the defendant at first remained quiet. But when he was shown the CCTV footage showing that he took the goods

and walked out of the store without paying, Latorre admitted to the crime.

His lawyer said the defendant committed the crime out of greed. A background check showed that he worked here as a domestic helper until December 2013.

Afterwards, he sought asylum as a torture claimant and was thus not allowed to take any job while his application is pending.

"This is a classic shop theft scenario. What is clear is that this is his fourth conviction in the last three years," Judge Wan said.

"He was sent to prison but committed a crime again after only a short time," he added.

Philip C. Tubeza

Indo worker cries discrimination

DURING an event attended by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), we met a migrant worker who felt she had been discriminated against in the provision of services.

Arista (not her real name) is an Indonesian. In July, she went to a public exhibition venue with one of her Indonesian friends. One staff at the exhibition venue was apparently not very courteous towards them.

While the staff greeted another customer in Cantonese, she ignored Arista and her friend. When Arista wanted to take pictures, she was not allowed to do so from certain angles and positions while other visitors were not stopped from doing the same. At one point, this particular staff offered to take another visitor's picture and in the process pushed aside Arista's friend.

The friend became very upset at this as they had been subjected to differential treatment since the time they entered the exhibition venue and this made a complaint to the venue manager.

Initially the manager tried to dismiss the whole matter as just a misunderstanding.

However, after Arista described how the staff treated other visitors who were from a different race as compared to her, the manager apologized for her conduct.

He promised that he would talk to the staff and make sure that such incidents do not happen again. Arista felt she finally received the respect that she fully deserved as a visitor to the exhibition.

As Arista said, she was able to realize that she might be discriminated by the exhibition's staff and explain to the manager about the incident because she had attended the EOC's workshop and therefore understood the meaning of discrimination under the law.

The Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) prohibits discrimination, harassment and vilification on the ground of a person's race. Race in relation to a person is the race of that person, such as being Chinese or Indian, etc.; the colour of that person, such as being black, brown or white, etc.; the person's "descent", such as his or her caste, which is based on inherited status or social stratification; the national origin of that person, such as being Filipino, or the ethnic origin of that person, such as being a Ilocano.

It is unlawful under the RDO to discriminate against a person on the ground of race in the provision of goods, facilities and services. If a person is treated less favorably on the ground of his/her race in the terms, manner, and quality in which the service is provided, such treatment

may amount to racial discrimination. In Arista's case, the circumstances suggest that unlawful race discrimination may have taken place in the provision of services.

What can we do if we are discriminated by service providers?

Just as what Arista did, we suggest you

speak to the manager or responsible person representing the service provider to see whether they can address your concerns. You can also lodge a complaint with the EOC within 12 months of the incident.

For more information on the EOC, the anti-discrimination laws, and how to lodge a complaint with the EOC in Taga-

log, please visit: <http://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/GraphicsFolder/tagalog.html>. You can also contact our hotline at 2511 8211 or email us at eoc@eoc.org.hk for assistance. (We can provide you with an interpreter upon request, subject to availability of the interpreter).



Indonesian domestic workers

Tourist gets two weeks for drugs, overstay

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A Filipina was convicted of two criminal offenses and sentenced to jail by an Eastern Court judge after pleading guilty on October 11.

Magistrate Jason Wan sentenced Rosefina Tormento to 14 days for the charge of "possession of equipment fit and intended for the smoking of dangerous drug", and seven days for "breach of condition of stay - overstay" to be served concurrently.

Tormento was caught in North Point on August 24, 2016 with an "apparatus" that was intended for inhaling shabu. It was also found that her tourist visa expired on August 4, 2016.

Judge Wan, however, noted that Tormento was married to a Hong Kong res-

ident, but the prosecutor said that she was unable to apply for the change of her status to have a dependent's visa before her tourist visa expired.

"I have given you the most lenient [sentence]. If you are caught with doing drugs again, you will be sent away for months. It could be 12 months," he told Tormento.

Tormento had been in custody for 26 days when her sentence was handed down.

Meanwhile, the trial of a Filipino facing two charges of illegal possession of drugs was deferred after she failed to seek the services of a duty lawyer.

Gladys de Vera told Deputy Magistrate Jacky Ip Kai-leung that she thought of getting a private lawyer to represent her in the cases, but she did not when she found out that she could not afford one.

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10,000.00	600,000.00	72,486.99	672,486.99
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300,000.00	73,854.58	373,854.58
600,000.00	147,709.16	747,709.16
900,000.00	221,563.74	1,121,563.74
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The mystical Ha Long Bay

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

LEGEND has it that when Vietnam was a newly-formed country, its people had to fight against invaders from the north through the sea.

To help the Vietnamese, the Jade Emperor was said to have sent the Mother Dragon and her children to help the people defend the country.

When the enemies were attacking Vietnam, the Mother Dragon and her children spewed fire and giant emeralds, subduing the foes. The emeralds, it is believed, formed a defensive wall, sinking the fleet of ships of the enemies.

With the victory, peace was finally had in Vietnam and after a thousand years, the wall of emerald turned into islands and islets.

To remember the help of the Mother

Dragon and her children, the bay where the Mother Dragon descended was called Ha Long (where the dragon descends into the sea), and the bay where her children descended was called Bai Tu Long, which means "thanks to the Dragon's children."

Even without the background of the legend about Halong Bay, cruising in this UNESCO World Heritage Site was otherworldly.

After spending a night and a day in Hanoi, we headed out of the city and took a three-hour bus trip to the dock where the boat of Glory Legend Cruise was waiting.

Upon arrival on the boat, after the preliminaries about safety and instructions were given to passengers, we were finally treated to a sumptuous lunch, consisting of so many sets and dishes that I lost count after the nth time we were served some mouth-watering seafood.

While dining, the boat began to cruise and then not only was your taste being delighted, your sight was also being treated to the stunning scenery of the bay's numerous islands and islets.

Islands and islets and rock formation with lush vegetation were everywhere you turn your eyes to look. Those and with mist floating around these rock formations, and you get the feeling of being transported to some ancient land where people still believe in mythical creatures and enchanting tales.

As you feel the glide of the vessel on the water, you also get conflicted between closing your eyes and enjoying the moment and keeping your eyes open and take everything in.

Looking at the islands and islets, one can't help but take a deep breath and feel exultant about the beauty of nature.

After a brief rest, we were off to cave exploring, and kayaking and swimming.

A small ferry boat took the passengers to the Vung Cave.

Two options were given to the passengers: first was the "lazy" option with passengers being ferried to the underground cave on a bamboo boat with a local doing all the rowing; and on the other hand, the adventurous passengers were given the option to kayak on their own and explore the underground cave by themselves.

While on the boat, we saw another boat full of tourists trying to coax a family of monkeys to make an appearance. After making some (weird) noises, the monkeys deigned to appear, swinging from branches to branches.



Tourists being ferried to the Vung Cave

Depending on the day's heat index, the trip to the cave could be unbearably humid, but the experience and the sight were worth your temporary inconvenience.

It was the highlight of the overnight cruise.

After leaving the Vung Vieng Fishing Village, we then headed to the Ti Top Island whose beach was the only area where tourists were allowed to swim. Ti Top island got its name from Soviet cosmonaut Gherman Stepanovich Titov who, on August 6, 1961, became the second human to orbit the earth.

Our cruise manager said that among the numerous islands in Ha Long Bay, only island no. 48 was given a name and it was in honor of Titov.

Last year, the Quang Ninh province unveiled a huge monument of Titov on the island.

But if you'd rather not bathe, then you

could opt to take the 427 steps up the island stairs and enjoy the island's view from the top. Be warned though that ascending the stairs would be no easy feat.

Back to the cruise ship, before dinner was served, guests were taught by the head chef how to make watermelon carvings, and fresh spring rolls.

Dinner was a lavish affair, with the cruise staff serving the best of Vietnamese cuisine to the guests, including fried spring rolls, and other dishes featuring prawns, clams, and marlin, among others. Those wanting to lose weight, break your diet, because it would not be the right time to skip your food.

The following day, we woke up early to catch the stunning of sun rising over Ha Long Bay, and it was a magnificent scene.

It became cloudy as the day wore on as we set sail back to the pier where our transfer back to Hanoi was waiting for us.



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Duterte to visit China

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte will be making foreign trips to Brunei, China, and Japan this month as he tries to chart his "independent foreign policy" and secure economic and trade deals with neighboring countries.

Duterte's visit to Brunei was postponed by a deadly explosion in his home city of Davao on Sept. 2. The state visit, where he will meet Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, has been moved to Oct. 16 to 18.

From Brunei, Duterte will proceed to China for his much-anticipated state visit there from Oct. 18 to 21, amid the ongoing territorial row between the two countries in the South China Sea.

Duterte said he will raise Manila's victory in an arbitration case against Beijing before a United Nations tribunal during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

He described the ruling, which junked China's nine-dash-line claim over the en-



Beijing

tire South China Sea, as a "piece of paper."

"I am willing to talk. I am going to China. And if it is just the two of us there, I will present the problem to him. And I would say to him, 'this piece of paper, the arbitral award, we don't go out of the four corners of this paper. Let's talk,'" Duterte said.

However, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said the maritime row issue may be put in the back-burner during the bilateral meeting of Duterte and Xi.

"Not on this trip," Yasay said when asked if both leaders will discuss Beijing's illegal reclamation activities in the South China Sea.

"The purpose of this trip will be precisely just to engage China insofar as the other aspect of our relationship is concerned so that we will be paving a way for more meaningful and hopefully successful engagements for our bilateral talks with respect to the settling of disputes regarding the South China Sea," he added.

From Beijing, the President will return to Manila for a three-day break before heading to Japan, one of the country's strategic allies, for an official visit from Oct. 25 to 27.

Japan is expected to provide further maritime security assistance to Manila and to "push for greater trade activities" between the countries.

Duterte reportedly requested an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during his three-day stay in Tokyo.

The Imperial Couple visited the Philippines in January to mark the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

PCG...

From page 1

allowance dun sa MAW kasi we cited the suitability and sufficiency of the food employers provide to the FDWs.

Employers are required to provide FDWs with free food but they can also give a "food allowance" instead.

At present, the vast majority of employers provide free food but many FDWs complain that they are given only noodles, biscuits, or leftover food. They are asking that the food allowance should also mandatory.

"We told them (the Labour officials) that Filipinos love to eat rice for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and we heard so many stories that the food the employers provide to their domestic workers were the leftovers of their wards," Vallespin said.

However, the Labour officials were not convinced by the PCG during the September 27 meeting.

"Yun ang initial reaction...parang ayaw nila," said Vallespin.

He said the PCG will continue to raise the matter in future TWG meetings.

The TWG, composed of Philippine and Hong Kong officials, meet regularly to resolve issues concerning overseas Filipino workers in the city.

Vallespin said Labour officials were also not entirely convinced by the new Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) policy that, starting today (October 15), all new contracts for Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong should contain a clause saying that cleaning the exterior of window of their employer's flat is not part of their duties.

"That's understandable kasi employers din sila, but we said we will not verify and authenticate the contracts," Vallespin said.

In a memo to employment agencies on October 1, Labor Attache Jalilo Dela Torre said the POLO was implementing the new policy based on its mandate to protect Filipino workers and on the order of Philippine Labor Secretary Silvestre "Bebot" Bello III.

"Pursuant to POLO's mandate to protect the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers, and by virtue of a directive from the Office of the Secretary of Labor and Employment, effective Oct. 15, 2016, all contracts of employment submitted individually and by agencies should contain a Rinalyn Exception in the Schedule of Accommodation and Duties, No. 5," Dela Torre said in his memo.

He said the POLO's online filing system will automatically print on all contracts of

Filipino domestic workers the following clause: "For safety purposes, cleaning the exterior of windows is not part of the domestic helper's duties."

"Please ensure that employers read this part and understand it before they sign the contract you will submit to us for verification and authentication," Dela Torre said.

The POLO is implementing the new policy after domestic worker Rinalyn Dulluog on August 9 fell to her death while reportedly cleaning the windows of her employer's flat on the 49th floor of a condo in LOHAS Park.

Eman Villanueva, chair of Bayan-Hong Kong and Macau, hailed Dela Torre's decision to impose a window-cleaning ban for FDWs.

"Nagtake ng initiative ang POLO, si Labatt Dela Torre, at welcome ang move na iyon. It was an independent move at pinapakita niya na kaya niyang i-exercise kahit iyong limited jurisdiction niya over the contract processing," Villanueva said in an interview.

"Ang nag-aapprove naman talaga [ng contracts] ay ang Hong Kong government pero may prosesong dumadaan kay Labatt at, kahit limited ang jurisdiction niya sa contract processing, natutuwa kami na in-exercise niya iyon," he said.

will be entitled to a rebate," Calzado said.

"Huwag kayong mag-alala. Yung 10 years contribution nandyan na. That is something na hindi natin puwedeng burahin kasi nasa batas na yan," she added.

Calzado said the government was preparing the law's implementing rules and regulations so that the rebate program could proceed.

Under the new law, OWWA membership also lasts for two years and would remain in effect even if the worker is terminated.

"It means if you are terminated, your membership in the OWWA is still good for two years," she said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Bello: 'Endo' to end in 2017

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE government intends to wipeout the unpopular practice of "endo" or contractualization in the Philippines by next year, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said.

Bello said the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was planning to cut by half by the end of 2016 the number of companies that practice "endo."

"Ang sabi ng ating Pangulo, ayaw na niya ng endo. Ayaw niya rin niya ng contractualization," Bello said during a recent visit to Hong Kong.

"Nangako kami kay Presidente na sa loob ng six months babawasan namin ang endo by 50 percent para, pagdating ng end of 2017, wala ng endo, wala ng contractualization," he said.

Bello said that, by the end of next year, all private sector employees should already be regular employees and not contractals.

"Lahat ng empleyado sa private sector, regular na at may security of tenure na. Kaya kayo, pwede na kyong bumalik,"

Bello told overseas Filipino workers here.

"Bagamat inaalagaan ng Pangulo ang inyong kapakanan, ang final goal ng ating Presidente is to get you back to the Philippines. Alam natin gaano kahirap ang ang mangibang bansa para maghanap ng trabahao," he said.

"Kaya bibigyan na kayo ng trabahao duon. Huwag na kayong umalis. Yun ang final goal ng ating Presidente," he added.

Bello also said that DOLE will also conduct focused group discussions (FGDs) on the effective implementation of the law on "Security of Tenure and Protection of Employees Under Legitimate Forms of Fixed Period Employment."

"Non-standard forms of employment or precarious work, as opposed to regular or permanent employment, proliferate in the country. Assuring workers of thier security of tenure are major decent work challenges which the Department has to face," he said.

The participants in the FGDs will be representatives from the employers and workers sectors.

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OFW bank eyed

PRESIDENT Duterte is planning to set up a bank for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said.

Bello said Duterte wanted the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to buy the Philippine Postal Bank and turn it into an "OFW Bank" to benefit Filipinos working abroad.

"Ang gusto ng ating Presidente ay meroon kayong sariling bangko. Maaring bibilhin ng OWWA ang Philippine Postal Bank at tatawaging OFW Bank," Bello told OFWs in Hong Kong during a recent visit.

"Tapos bibili kayo ng shares niyo. Kayo na may-ari ng OFW Bank para pagremit, konti na lang babayaran niyo. Para maka-utang na kayo

ng pampatayo ng bahay," he added.

Bello said the OWWA fund now amounted to P19.2 billion. Former OWWA chief Rebecca Calzado said the Commission on Audit regularly audited the fund to make sure it was not misused.

"Ang gastos sa pondo ay ina-audit ng Commission on Audit na nagsisiguro na yung mga transaksyon na gumagamit ng pondo niyo ay nasasa-ayos," Calzado said.

She said the new OWWA Act also sets a rebate program for members of more than 10 years who have not availed of any OWWA benefit.

"For those of you who have made a minimum contribution of 10 years, pero hindi pa siya naka-avail ni minsan ng benepisyo sa OWWA, you

Duterte dares US, EU to withdraw aid

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte dared the United States and the European Union to withdraw their aid to the Philippines, saying the Philippines will not beg for their assistance.

Duterte said the Philippines can survive without the help of countries that do not understand the seriousness of the drug problem.

"I do not expect the human rights (advocates), I do not expect (US President Barack) Obama, I do not expect the EU to understand me. If you think it's high time for you guys to withdraw your assistance, go ahead. We will not beg for it," the President said.

"We have a problem here trying to preserve our society and you mess up by (raising) human rights (issues). You threaten us using your assistance. How do you look at us? Mendicants?" he added.

Duterte said he is not afraid to die of hunger if foreign aid is stopped.

"We will survive. Even if it's difficult,

we will survive," the tough-talking president said.

"I'll be the first one to go hungry. I'll be the first one to die of hunger. Do not worry. But we will never compromise our dignity as Filipino," he added.

Duterte has been widely criticized for the alleged extrajudicial killings of drug suspects, something that the President said constituted interference with the internal affairs of the Philippines.

For his part, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. accused the United States of failing the Philippines as he declared that the country would break the "shackles of dependency" on Washington.

Yasay said the Duterte administration would no longer bend to the carrot-and-stick approach used by America or any other country, including China.

"This is at the core of the message of President Rodrigo Duterte to the American people and the world. This has compelled him to realign our foreign policy towards an independent track in pursuing the overriding national interest and in up-



Duterte

holding and protecting our sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

"Breaking away from the shackling dependency of the Philippines to effectively address both internal and external security threats has become imperative in putting an end to our nation's subservience to United States' interests," Yasay added.

Yasay said even the presence of US troops has not helped the country protect

its territorial borders.

"The stark reality is that even in protecting our territorial boundaries and the exclusive use of our maritime entitlements in the South China Sea, our defensive forces remain grossly incapable in meeting the security threats that we face from potential foes, not to mention their stagnating impact on our development," Yasay said.

"Worse, our only ally could not give us

the assurance that in taking a hardline towards the enforcement of our sovereignty rights under international law, it will promptly come to our defense under our existing military treaty," he added.

Given these conditions, Yasay said the President has decided "to liberate" Filipinos from the US "carrot-and-stick" policy toward the Philippines.

"The carrot and stick policy of the US towards the Philippines has been effectively used all throughout the long years since our independence to force Filipinos into submission to American demands and interests. This is what President Rodrigo Roa Duterte is now trying to liberate us from," he said.

In response, the US embassy in Manila posted "throwback" photos of its relief operations in the Philippines during the super typhoon Yolanda crisis and the Zamboanga seige in 2013.

"Members of the U.S. Marines are one of the first to respond with relief supplies immediately after Typhoon Yolanda struck the Philippines," it said.

DOH targets aedes aegypti

By Maia Lopez

THE Department of Health has declared the aedes aegypti mosquito, which brings the triple threat of dengue, chikungunya and Zika viruses, as its Public Enemy Number 1.

"Our campaign for dengue, chikungunya and Zika is only one: against the mosquito that is capable of transmitting these diseases," DOH spokesman Dr. Eric Tayag said.

Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial said the department has recorded the first Zika case in Metro Manila involving a resident from Antipolo.

"We now have a total of 15 confirmed cases of Zika virus out of 264 suspected cases reported nationwide from Jan. 1 to Oct. 4, 2016," she said.

A 22-year-old woman from Cebu province, who is 19 weeks pregnant with her first child, is among the positive Zika cases recorded.

The health secretary noted that all the cases acquired the virus through mosquito bites but did not have a history of travel to an affected country a month before the onset of the illness.

Meanwhile, Tayag said more than 146,000 cases of dengue fever have been reported from Jan. 1 to Sept. 24 this year, which is 11.5 percent higher than last year's figure. On the other hand, at least 3,473 suspected cases of chikungunya across the country have been recorded for the same period.

Tayag said majority of the cases were reported last week in the Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon region.

Draft amnesty for NPA members readied

By Maia Lopez

GOVERNMENT peace negotiators have already submitted a draft amnesty proclamation for communist rebels to President Rodrigo Duterte.

The draft proclamation covers 434 detained leaders and alleged members of the Communist Party of the Philippines - National Democratic Front - New People's Army.

The NDF earlier included in the list 81 detained rebels who it wanted released based on humanitarian grounds.

The draft proclamation will also include NDF consultants who were already released on bail and are now participating in the peace negotiations.

Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said the amnesty has to go through the process, which includes a review by and concurrence of Congress after the President has signed the proclamation.

"I see no reason why we cannot do it the way we are accelerating the peace process," government panel chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III said.

The government is also reconstituting the Presidential Committee on Bail, Recognition, and Pardon (PCBREP) to

facilitate the immediate release of prisoners on humanitarian grounds.

In Oslo, negotiators from both sides have agreed on common frameworks and outlines of the last three substantive agenda that will comprise the final peace agreement with the communist guerrillas.



The peace talks in Oslo

"The efforts extended by the working groups and committees of both panels are commendable. Exhibiting a great amount of patience, they literally worked round the clock and refused to be stymied by minor differences of opinions," Bello said.

"It was a roller-coaster ride but in the end, both parties reached their desired destination. Sharing a common vision, they were willing to walk the extra mile just to move the peace process forward,"

he added.

As expected, the longest session was reserved for the discussion on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER) which would eventually tackle the most contentious issues such as agrarian reform, national industrialization and foreign policy.

Both parties also agreed that even before a negotiated political settlement is reached, Filipinos may immediately enjoy the benefits of "peace dividends" derived from CASER.

"Even while the government and the NDF are on negotiation stage, reforms may already be implemented as a result of agreements on topics such as agrarian reform and national industrialization," Bello said.

"We need not wait for the conclusion of a final peace agreement before Filipinos enjoy the fruits of concurrent peace negotiations," he added.

In their report to the panels, the working committee on CASER of both parties agreed to fulfill their commitment to "endeavor to complete work within a period of six months." An extension may be allowed provided it does not exceed more than nine months.

Inmate says De Lima campaign got drug money

INMATE Jaybee Sebastian admitted before a congressional panel that he raised P10 million in campaign funds for Senator Leila de Lima, funded by drug operations at the New Bilibid Prison during her tenure as Justice Secretary.

Sebastian said of the P10 million, he delivered P2 million directly to De Lima in January. He said De Lima, who was at the office of then Bureau of Corrections chief Franklin Bucayu, told him to leave the money since her former aide, Joanel Sanchez, was not around.

"Ma'am may dala ako pera dito," Sebastian recalled telling De Lima. He said the former justice

chief replied: "Iwan mo na lang dyan."

In another instance, Sebastian said after he gave P2 million through Sanchez in December 2014, he called up the latter to check if they money reached De Lima.

"May narinig ako sa linya na ka-boses ni Sec. De Lima. Sabi ko, 'Natanggap n'yo po ba ang regalo ko sa inyo?'" he said, to which De Lima replied: "Yes Jaybee. Merry Christmas."

He said he gave the remaining P6 million to De Lima's close-in security personnel at the office of the Bilibid TV 3 where Sebastian holds office.

De Lima, for her part, said Sebastian was

"pushed to the wall" into testifying against her. "Apparently and obviously, (Sebastian) could no longer take the pressure," De Lima said.

The senator said a source told her that Sebastian was the real target in the riot last month at the NBP where one inmate was killed.

"That could only be the explanation why he (Sebastian) could no longer take the pressure. He has heeded his wife who had pleaded to him to follow whatever they told him to do because they were only after De Lima. De Lima will understand it later," the senator quoted her source as saying.

Maia Lopez

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More than 11K OFWs in Saudi get help

By Maia Lopez

A total of 11,359 distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Saudi Arabia have benefitted from the government's Relief Assistance Program, according to Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III.

"The Relief Assistance Program is aimed at facilitating the repatriation of our distressed OFWs and ensuring that they have decent working and living conditions onsite," said Bello.

Bello said that as of September 9, 2016, a total of P305,330,026.76 was disbursed onsite and in the Philippines which benefitted 11,359 distressed OFWs. About 8,779 family beneficiaries of OFWs were also assisted under the Relief Assistance Program (RAP).

He added that through the composite inter-agency teams, distressed OFWs in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al Khobar were provided with relief and financial assistance, counselling, medical consultation, and legal assistance, among others.

The total number of distressed OFWs in Saudi Arabia who availed of the welfare services rendered by the Augmentation



Leaders of Saudi OFW groups seek help from DOLE

Teams included: 9,874 OFWs were registered in the Assist WELL program and were provided food packs and oriented on OWWA's Livelihood Program; while 5,924 OFWs were profiled for training/competency assessment under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

There were also 5,757 OFWs who received medical, mental health/psychological processing from the Department of Health (DOH).

Bello added that 9,476 OFWs were provided relief assistance and counselling from the Department of Social Welfare

and Development (DSWD); and 4,393 OFWs availed of legal assistance in filing money claims from the Public Attorney's Office (PAO).

To ensure the safety and welfare of the remaining displaced OFWs, the DOLE recommended that a second batch of Inter-Agency Augmentation Teams be dispatched to Saudi Arabia to support the Philippine Embassy there.

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

Gary V sings for undocumented Pinoy kids

By Maia Lopez

FILIPINO singer-songwriter Gary Valenciano evoked his moniker "Mr. Pure Energy" as he entertained his Filipino fans and made fans out of Malaysians present at a benefit dinner concert on September 30 at the Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral Hotel.

Performing a repertoire of his own hits and of other artists covering different eras, Valenciano showcased his wide range—dancing along with his audience in upbeat tempo and bringing tears to the eyes of his listeners during his heartfelt renditions.

The concert-fundraiser was spearheaded by a volunteer committee chaired by Puan Sri Sylvia and her husband, Tan Sri Othman Merican, with Ms. Tess Dizon and in collaboration with the Embassy.

The benefit dinner raised around RM140,000 (PHP 1.64 million) for six Filipino community-run alternative learning centers for undocumented Filipino

children in Sabah.

Valenciano sang "Take Me Out of the Dark," "Babalik Ka Rin", "The Warrior is a Child" and "Sana Maulit Muli." Valenciano is UNICEF Philippines National Ambassador since 1998. The program was hosted by Filipina actress, singer and host Julia Clarete, while a charity auction was emceed by Ms. Carol Ramoran-Malasis.

At a pre-concert program, Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia J. Eduardo Malaya thanked Valenciano for his readiness to help.

"Gary V. is deeply committed to the upliftment of the welfare of children their cause. That is why when he was asked to come over to Kuala Lumpur, he readily said yes," Malaya said.

"I wish to convey the Embassy's deep gratitude to him and to all of those who supported our alternative education initiative for children in Sabah. Your support goes a long, long way," he added.

Pinay nurses pass UK exam

THE Philippine Embassy in London led by Philippine Ambassador to the United Kingdom Evan P. Garcia congratulated 28 Filipino nurses who passed the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) conducted by the Northampton University Hospital "with a 100 percent passing rate."

Garcia said the nurses were recruited by the Western Sussex Hospital National Health Service (NHS) Trust.

The Filipino nurses who passed the exam included Maria Mitra, Karen Orayan, Mary Ann Tariman, Jonvi Delos Santos, Jeremy Tayag, Marc Valledor, Kathleen Ayson, Mary Samante, Katrina Ablay, Jeffrey Gallardo, Sherwin Mabbayad, Rona Talampas, Jacky Limpangog, Karlo Baricuatro, Katherine Sales, Sarah Jane Balite, Marnell Vinson, Lavana Vinson, Joel Lobitana, Dennise Severino, Maria Acenas, Mary Paragamac, Angelique Alto-bar, Steven Ray Cura Basal, Sheila Baclayon, Belly Timtim, Kian Patrick Gaingalao Toledo, and Kathleen Locsin.

The OSCE is the final hurdle that the Filipino nurses need to pass to be able to register with the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and practice their profession as full-fledged nurses in the United Kingdom. Before this final stage, the candidate nurses had to first pass the International English Language Test System (IELTS) with a tough minimum score of 7.0 in all the test areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

IELTS passers are then allowed to take the Computer-Based Test of Competence (CBT) while in the Philippines, before being admitted to the United Kingdom for the OSCE, which requires actual demonstration of a mastery of procedures in rendering nursing services, based on UK Standard Operating Procedures.

The Filipino candidate nurses had to undergo at least one month of further intensive training at the Worthing Hospital at Lyndhurst Road, Worthing, West Sussex provided by the Western Sussex Hospital NHS Trust.

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Pag-Ibig	2823 8561
Consulate Trunkline	2823 8500
Office Fax:	2866 9885

Email: hongkongpc@philcongen-hk.com

Website: http://philcongen-hk.com/

Facebook: Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong

Hong Kong GOVERNMENT

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Central Government	2835 2500
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Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants

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Asian Migrant Center 2312 0031

Christian Action - Shine Center

3188 4555

Diocesan Pastoral Center for Filipinos (and other Asian Migrants and Ethnic Minorities) 2526 4249

Alliance of Progressive Labor 2770 0411

Bayanihan Trust Centre 2817 8928

Filipino Migrant Workers Union

9104-1411; 9758-5935

Hong Kong Christian Service - CHEER Center 3755 6811

International Social Services 2836 3598

Mission for Migrant Workers 2522 8264

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Enrich Hong Kong 2386 5811

Helpers for Domestic Helpers 2523 4020

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P2M loan for returning OFWs

By Peter Castillo

RETURNING overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families can now avail of livelihood loan assistance worth P100,000 up to P2 million, Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III said.

Bello made the announcement on October 6 after the signing of memorandum of agreement on the implementation of the OFW-Enterprise Development and Loan Program (OFW-EDLP) between the Department of Labor and Employment-Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on 6 September.

"This joint undertaking addresses one of the eight-point labor and employment agenda of the Department of Labor and Employment, which is to bring more focus and accessibility on workers' protection and welfare program, specifically the OFWs," Bello said.

The OFW-EDLP, which is implemented in partnership with Land Bank of the Phil-



Bello talks with OFW at the Bethune House shelter in Sheung Wan

ippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, aims to help OFWs and their families to pursue entrepreneurial undertakings. The loanable amount for qualified individual borrowers is from P100,000 up to a maximum of P2 million. For group borrowers, they can borrow up to a maximum of P5 million.

The qualified borrowers of the loan program are certified OWWA members, active and non-active, and currently employed overseas or have returned to the

Philippines within the last three years, except on cases where the applicant has an on-going business prior to the time of application, and have completed the Enhanced Entrepreneurial Development Training (EEDT). Partnerships, corporations, and cooperatives whose members are OFWs who have been certified as OWWA members, are also qualified to avail said loan program.

The loanable amount carries a fixed interest rate of 7.5 percent per annum for the

duration of the loan. It can be used either as working capital or for acquisition of fixed assets needed for business operations. However, the program requires that the proposed project should have a ready market and should generate a monthly income of at least P10,000.

Borrowers can choose a short-term loan, which can be paid within a year, or a long-term loan which is payable based on the cash flow but not to exceed seven years, inclusive of the maximum two-year grace period on the capital.

Through DTI's assistance, OFWs will have access to training and technical support in starting an enterprise, as well as opportunities to attend special events, such as conferences, exhibitions, symposia, caravans, and other promotional activities initiated by DTI and the private sector.

Applicants interested to avail of the OFW enterprise development and loan program must secure the required documents to ensure smooth processing of their loan application.

And yet there is hope

THE Earth's global population will grow to between 9-10 billion people by 2050. Along with hunger, pollution, and violence expected to worsen.

Supporting such a massive population growth becomes a political challenge. Yet the world is already torn by strife. Can politics really solve these problems?

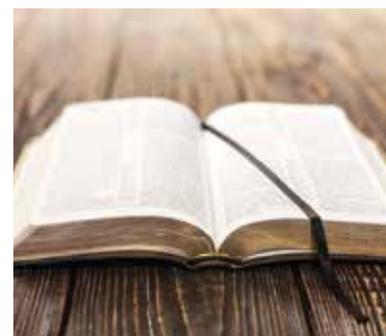
Looming over all this is the frequent threat of economic crisis, with widespread unemployment and material hardship. The 'under-developed nations' are in debt to the world banks to staggering sums run-

ning into billions of dollars. There is little prospect of ever being able to repay the loans. And yet there is hope.

There is one source which never failed us or given false expectations: The Bible.

The Bible says mankind has been given power to control the affairs of the world, but only for a limited time. Throughout the Bible, human history is seen as ending in a great climax, frequently called 'the time of the end'.

When the 'time of the end' comes, the control of the world will be taken from



The Good News

mankind, for 'the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the ruler over the nations' (Psalm 22:28). When Jesus the Lord, the future

King is established, 'all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him' (Psalm 72:11). This is the hope we have and it's not new. The Bible is the source of this hope. It explains the history of the world, and the hope we have for the bright future of mankind.

To learn more about God's Master plan, the Christadelphians will run a FREE 7 week course on Sundays from Oct. 23, 2016 from 4-6pm. The venue is City Hall, Level 7, Committee Room South. No registration needed. Please turn up.



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COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTION
TO ALL FILIPINO CITIZENS

Notice is hereby given that under Republic Act No. 9189 as amended by Republic Act No. 10590, all citizens of the Philippines abroad, who are not disqualified by law, at least eighteen (18) years old on May 13, 2019, and who are registered overseas voters, may vote for Senators, and Party-List Representatives.

All qualified Filipino citizens who are not registered overseas voters may file their applications for registration at the nearest embassy / consulate or other registration centers authorized by the Commission on Elections.

To register, all applicants must personally appear at Philippine Consulate General, Hong Kong SAR located at 14th Floor, United Centre, Admiralty, HK SAR for biometrics capturing and bring the following requirements: 1) Photocopy of valid passport; 2) or if dual citizen, copy of oath of allegiance or proof of the Philippine citizenship from the Bureau of Immigration; 3) or for seamen, copy of seaman's book.

Filing of applications for registration shall be from December 1, 2016 to October 31, 2018.

The 30-day voting period will commence on April 13, 2019 until May 13, 2019 (Philippine time). Time and venue of voting to be announced later.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Film Festival

The Philippine Consulate General (PCG), in cooperation with the Film Development Council of the Philippines, will hold the 7th Philippine Festival from October 16 to 30.

The films to be shown include "Everyday I Love You" (on Oct. 16 at the University of Hong Kong), "Bride for Rent" (Oct. 18 at the Delia Memorial School), and "Everything About Her" (Oct. 23 at the University of Hong Kong).

On Oct. 23, there will be a special public screening at the PCG Gallery for "Crazy Beautiful You" (1 p.m.) and "Starting Over Again" (3:30 p.m.).

On Oct. 30, "That Thing called Tadhana" will be shown at the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre at 7A Kennedy Road in Central at around 5:30 p.m.

GALLERY



The Filipino Migrant Workers' Union marks its 18th anniversary on Oct. 9 in Central.



Members of the National Organization of Professional Teachers-Hong Kong (NOPT-HK) pose during the jobs forum for teachers at the Bayanihan Centre in Kennedy Town on Oct. 9.

PH team joins figure skating tilt in HK

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

TWELVE Filipino girls participated in the recently-concluded 2016/2017 Asian Junior Figure Skating Challenge held at the Festival Walk mall in Kowloon Tong.

Al Marinas, Philippine delegation head coach, told Hong Kong News that figure skating in the Philippines has become popular following the 2014 Winter Olympics stint of Michael Christian Martinez. Martinez became the first skater from Southeast Asia and from a tropical country to qualify for the Olympics.

Marinas said the girls who participated won awards and medals in the competition.

"Sa Philippine [delegation] positive naman. So mostly, ang mga pumunta ngayon ay mga baguhan...For this competition, as long as pasok ka sa age

bracket at kaya mong gawin ang requirements ok kasi [this is a] non-qualifying competition," he said.

Asked if the Philippine government funded the delegation's expenses, Marinas said the delegates spent their own money to join the competition.



Yu during the tilt

"Practice and exposure [kasi ang purpose nito]. Normally, ang funded ng government iyong talagang big competition like iyong sa Olympics o World Championship," he said.

Shaniah Yu, 11, and one of the Philippine delegates, said the Hong Kong competition was her second time to compete overseas following a competition in Lake Placid, New York in the US in July.

"I only joined Summer Skate in Skating manila and I won like gold, and I won the highest pointer female basic trophy and I also won most artistic," she said, adding that joining the Olympics is her ultimate dream.

The competition was held on October 3-5 in Hong Kong, where other teams from China, Hong Kong, Taipei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand also joined. There were 174 skaters who competed in the tilt.

'Easy on the tong-its'

By Philip C. Tubeza

DON'T gamble away your savings.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III urged overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Hong Kong not to get addicted on gambling, particularly the card game known as "tong-its".

Bello said in a dialogue with OFWs at the Hong Kong University that it was better to save that gamble away one's money.

"Huwag lang kayo mag tong-its. Day, ayaw pag tong-it gyud," Bello told his audience who replied that many played the

game here in Hong Kong.

"Alam nyo, noong abogado pa ako, nagpunta ako sa Roma. Nagyaya yung mga Pinoy sa train station. Pagpunta ko, ang daming Pinoy. Hala tong-its, pusoy, lahat nandoun. Huwag niyo gawin yun dito," he added.

Last year, the Hong Kong police arrested 13 Filipinos for openly gambling in public.

The Philippine Consulate General warned Filipinos against illegal gambling activities especially during their day off on Sunday in public places.

Germany needs 200,000 nurses

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) is looking for an institute that could teach German to Filipino nurses who work as domestic helpers here in Hong Kong, Labor Attache Jalilo dela Torre said.

Dela Torre said members of the Philippine Association of Service Exporters (PASEI) told the nursing job forum at the Bayanihan Centre on October 9 that there was a great demand for Filipino nurses.

"Tremendous ang demand. Kaya naghanap kami dito sa Hong Kong ng training institute," he said.

Dela Torre said that more than 150 OFWs attended the job forum which tackled job opportunities for registered nurses in Germany, Australia, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

He said nurses going to Germany need to learn the German language before they are deployed there.

"Dyan yung language training which is for six months and nagtatanong attendees kung pwede maghanap kami dito ng German language training institute para, while they're still here, they can pursue their training on their own para hindi na umuwi para lang sa language training," Dela Torre said.

He said there was also no experience required for nurses who want to work in Germany.

"Ang daming opportunities. May jobs encounter sa Cologne kaya pupunta ang PASEI duon and they will be meeting with employers, yung hospitals," Dela Torre said.

"They will also set up German language training schools back home for those com-

ing from the Philippines," he added.

For nurses working as FDHs in Hong Kong who want to work in Germany, they can begin contacting employment agencies that send nurses to Germany.

"They can communicate kung ano requirements. Tapos if it's time to interview the employer, e talagang uuwi sila. Di pwede dito," he said.

PASEI can be contacted through email (secretariat@pasei.com) and its website (www.pasei.com). It also has a Facebook page.

Former Labor Secretary Baldoz said in March after a visit to Germany that the country was in short supply of nurses and that it would at least need 200,000 nurses by 2020.

"The officials have expressed preference to hire Filipino nurses," she said during a press briefing in Pasay City.

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As We See it

Our Wish

IT'S been more than 100 days since the Duterte administration assumed office.

So far, we have seen both the good and the bad in our new government.

First we would like to commend President Duterte and his team for their efforts in streamlining business registrations and other processes to encourage more Filipinos to become entrepreneurs and more foreign businesses to invest in the Philippines.

We also note the easing of OEC requirements, the improvement in our airports that effectively eliminated the "tanim-bala" scam and other services that benefited the overseas Filipino workers.

Then there's the emergency hotline as well as a hotline that Filipinos could call to report red tape and corrupt practices in the bureaucracy.

But we also hope the President rethinks his crass and vulgar responses to the criti-

cism of his drug war.

We couldn't agree more with Sen. Shahani when she said that gaining new friends does not mean antagonizing our existing ones.

We also do not understand why the administration seems to disregard that the Philippines won its arbitration case against China. Why does it seem we are engaging Beijing from a weak position? We won the case, Mr. President and we hope you take advantage of it.

We must also point out that the Philippines is beset with many problems, traffic and poverty, to name a few, and we hope he would be as aggressive in addressing these as he is in tackling the drug menace in our society.

We hope he becomes the Tatay Digong that the Philippines needs.

Mr. President, we wish you well as your success is the Philippines' success too!



Health Alert

Paediatric Enterovirus

THE Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health investigated a case of severe paediatric enterovirus (EV) infection, and again urged the public and institutions to maintain strict hand, personal and environmental hygiene.

A 12-day-old baby girl with good past health presented with fever since October 3. She was admitted to Kwong Wah Hospital on the same day and was subsequently transferred to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit for further management. The clinical diagnoses were myocarditis and meningitis. The patient is now in a stable condition.

Her cerebrospinal fluid specimen tested positive for enterovirus (non EV71) upon testing by the CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch.

A spokesman for the CHP said that as EV infection is transmitted by direct contact with nose and throat discharges, the public should be vigilant and observe the following preventive measures:

- Wash hands before eating and after go-

ing to the toilet and changing diapers;

- Cover the mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing;
- Maintain good ventilation; and
- Thoroughly clean toys or appliances which are contaminated by nasal or oral secretions.

Children suffering from EV infection should stay at home and avoid contact with other children until they have recovered.

The Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is a common disease in children caused by enteroviruses such as coxsackieviruses and enterovirus 71 (EV71). The EV71 infection is of particular concern as it more likely associates with severe outcomes (like viral meningitis, encephalitis, poliomyelitis-like paralysis) and even death.

The usual peak season for HFMD in Hong Kong is from early summer to autumn and, a smaller peak may also occur in winter. The disease is most contagious during the first week of the illness.



Currents

Norman Uy Carnay

100 Araw ni Du30

NITONG nakaraang ika-8 ng Oktubre ay ang ika-100 araw sa puwesto ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte. Ginagawa nating sukatan ang unang isandaang araw ng halal na pangulo sa kanyang pamamahala.

Kung ating titingnan, mas lamang ang positibong nagawa ng bagong administrasyon kumpara sa mga naging kahinaan o kakapusan nito. Ilan sa mga reporma ay ang sumusunod:

Para sa mga OFWs, tampok ang pagtanggap ng OEC sa mga OFWs na "balik-manggagawa". Ang pagsugpo ng iskemang "tanim bala". Pagpapauwi sa mga stranded na OFWs sa Saudi Arabia at tulong pinansyal sa kanila. Ginawang 2 taon ang bisa ng OWWA membership. Dinagdagan din ng dalawa pang OFWs ang OWWA Board of Trustees. Nilinaw din ng administrasyon ang kanyang "commitment" sa pagsalba sa buhay ni Mary Jane Veloso.

Para sa mga magsasaka, nagsimula nang mamahagi ang Department of

Agrarian Reform (DAR) ng 350 ektaryang lupa sa Hacienda Luisita. Naipatawag din ang PARC (Presidential Agrarian Reform Council) makalipas ang higit sampung taong pagkatulog nito at naglabas ng moratorium sa "land-use conversion". Naglabas din ng kautusan ang Department of Agriculture na gawing libre ang irigasyon kasabay ng pamamahagi ng mga kasangkapang pangsakahan.

Naipasara ang higit sa 20 mga minahang may mga paglabag sa mga batas sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan at wastong pagmimina.

May aabot sa 10,000 mga manggagawang kontraktwal ang naging regular. Target ng administrasyon na pawiin ang kontraktwalisasyon pagsapit ng 2017.

Sumulong ang usapang pangkapyapaan sa pagitan ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas (GRP) at ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), at nagdeklara ng magkasabay na tigil-putukan sa magkabilang-panig at nagpalaya

ng ilang mga bilangong pulitikal.

Giniit din ni Pres. Duterte ang pambansang soberenya at nagsasariling patakaran sa ugnayang panlabas at tinuligsa di pantay na relasyon ng Pilipinas at Amerika.

Samantala, nananatili pa ring hamon sa administrasyong ang ilang usapin kagaya ng paglilibing kay Marcos sa libingan ng mga bayani at ang pagdami ng mga napapaslang sa kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga na malinaw na sinasamantala ng mga kawatang pulis at mga sindikato para "maglinis" ng mga magdadawit sa kanila.

Bagama't ang mga reporma ay hindi pa nalulubos, malaking pagkakaiba pa din ito kumpara sa mga nakaraang administrasyon. Kaya wasto lamang na patuloy pa rin ang taumbayan sa pagsusulong ng tunay na pagbabago – para sa makatarungang kapayapaan, pambayang kalayaan at bansang tunay na kumakalinga sa kanyang mamamayan.

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,

Sumusulat ako upang ipaabot ang ak-
ing pasasalamat sa bagong patakaran na
ipinalabas ng Philippine Overseas Labor
Office ukol sa paglilinis ng bintana.

Isa po ako sa mga naglilinis ng bintana
at kahit natatakot ako, wala akong maga-
wa dahil utos ng amo ko at ayoko namang
maging dahilan pa iyan para mawalan ako

ng trabaho.

Kaya talaga namang inabangan ko ang
balita ukol dito. Nabasa ko din kasi yung
nangyari sa isa nating kababayan dito at
talaga namang nakakatakot na maglinis ng
bintana.

Nais kong magpasalamat sa mga opisyal
ng pamahalaan natin dito sa Hong Kong
at nakikita ko na gumagawa naman sila ng

paraan upang mapangalagaan ang kapa-
kanaan namin dito.

Bagamat para lang sa mga bagong
kontrata ang pagbabawal na maglinis ng
bintana, hihintayin ko na magrenew ako
ng kontrata para hindi na ako maglinis ng
bintana.

Gumagalang,
Jely G.

HONG KONG NEWS

Jeneth P. Julve Managing Editor

Philip C. Tubeza Editor

Cheryl M. Arcibal Associate Editor

Belinda Bacani-Canezo Sales & Marketing Mgr

Joko Harjanto Assistant Sales Mgr

Nin Tang Senior Designer

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PO Box # 60185 at Tsat Tsz Mui Post Office

'You're feeding the insects, sir'

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

MASAYA at nakapagrelax kahit papaano sa maghapon si Cyril, 28, dalaga, at tubong Bohol, dahil araw niya ng pahinga.

Pero hindi pa man nakakapasok ng tuluyan sa loob ng bahay pag-uwi, si Cyril

ay sinalubong na siya ng among lalaki para sabihin na may nakita raw na dalawang insekto na kailangan daw mapatay.

Napa 'Yes, sir!' na lang si Cyril habang nagtatanggal ng sapatos para makapagpalit na siya ng damit pantrabaho.

Pagpasok ni Cyril sa kusina ay muntik

na niyang masagi ang pinggan sa pag-iwas sa matatapkan sana niyang kahon ng pizza.

Sa pagkabigla--magbabayad pa siya kung nabasag ang pinggan--pabiro niyang sinabi sa amo na paano hindi magkakaroon ng insekto e 'You're feeding the

insects, sir.'

Gustong-gusto raw ng mga ipis ang mga basurang pinanggaman ng pagkain. Tumingin lang sa kanya ang among Australyano.

Habang naghuhugas ay dinadaan na lang ni Cyril sa pagkanta ang pagkainis

dahil ayaw niyang tuluyang masira ang gabi niya at baka hindi siya makatulog.

Nang sumunod na Linggo ay medyo maayos ang pagkakasalansan ng mga basura na umaapaw sa basurahan at nakatambak sa lababo ang mga hugasan.

Matindi ang pangangailangan

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

SA bahay lang isinasagawa ang negosyo ng amo ni Susan, 40, may asawa at anak, at tubong Davao, kaya araw-araw sa umaga ay bumababa siya para kumuha ng libreng newspaper sa kanilang gusali na binabasa ng amo paggising nito.

Kapag tinatanghali siya ng baba, wala na siyang maaabutan sa kanilang gusali kaya sa katabi na siya makakahagilap. Minsan isang umaga, medyo nahuli siya ng ilang minuto sa pagbaba kaya wala na siyang nadatnan.

Paglabas niya ng gusali, nasalubong niya ang kaibigan na naghahatid ng alaga sa school bus at naibulalas ni Susan na ang

bilis naman maubos ng newspaper sa kanilang gusali.

Nakikita pala ng kaibigan niya na may Pinay na sadyang maramihan kung kumuha para ipakilo ang mga ito. Tinititigan pa nga raw niya raw kapag nakikita pero talaga raw yatang manhid.

Minsan raw nakita niya ang Pilipina na tulak ang kariton na puno ng ipapakilong papel at pinaringgan niya kung ganun na ba talaga katindi ang pangangailangan. Nakakahiya raw kasi kung mahuli, madamay lahat ng Pinay kahit hindi naman gumagawa.

Sana raw tigilan na ng Pinay ang ginawang sadyang nangunguha ng maramihang pahayagan para lang ipakilo.

Nagbababad sa banyo ang alaga

MAGTATAPOS na ng ikaanim na kontrata sa kanyang amo si Sylvia, 38, may asawa at dalawang anak, at tubong Tarlac.

Nasa tiyan pa lang ang bunsong alaga ng mag-umpisa siyang mamasukan sa kasalukuyang pinagliliingkurang mga amo.

Nang malilit pa ang mga alaga ni Sylvia ay maaga siyang nakakatapos ng mga gawaing bahay kaya maaga rin siyang nakakapasok sa kwarto niya kasi ang amo namang babae ang nagpapatulog sa mga alaga.

Ngayong malalaki na ay gabing-gabi na kung makatapos sa kusina kasi palagi ng naaabala ang hapunan sa kahihintay makatapos maligo at lumabas ng banyo ang bunso para daw sabay-sabay kumain.

Nagbababad kasi sa loob ng banyo ang bunso at patagong nanonood ng palabas sa iPhone kasi pinagbabawalan siya ng kanyang mga magulang hanggang hindi pa natatapos ang kanyang takdang aralin.

Sadyang napakagulang na raw talaga ng alaga ni Sylvia. Kung nasa sariling kwarto naman raw ay kunwari naiinitan kaya magbubukas ito ng aircon para may dahilan na isara ang pinto bago manonood na naman ng palabas habang gumagawa ng aralin.

Hinahangad na lang ni Sylvia na sana matuklasan ng mga amo niya ang kalokohang ginagawa ng alaga.

Imelda Mae Bustinera

Palaging balisa

By IMB

MATAGAL ng namamasukan bilang kasambahay si Aurora, 53, may asawa at anak, at tubong Manila. Palagay at mahinahon dati ang kanyang kalooban na nagtatrabaho kaya nagtagal siya ng 30 taon sa kanyang amo.

Subalit napapansin ng mga amo ngayon na si Aurora ay palagi nang balisa. Madalas na siyang magkamali sa kanyang ginagawa at paminsan-minsan ay napapataas ang boses niya.

May pagkakataon pa na wala siyang imik at magugulatin. Inakala ng mga amo na baka nagkakataon na pagod lamang ang kasambahay pero habang tumatagal ay parang lumalala na.

Baka raw dahil nagkakaedad na. Hindi na nakatatis ang mga amo at kinausap na si Aurora kung gusto na niyang tumigil sa pamamasukan para makau-

wi na. Napaiyak si Aurora at sinabing wala pa siyang balak tumigil lalo na ang umuwi sa Pilipinas.

Kung noon daw ang kinatakutan lang niya ay ang ma rape at ma hold up ang kanyang anak, ngayon daw ay baka pasukin sa bahay at sabihin nakitaan at nanlaban o kaya naman daw matagpuan sa kalsada wala ng buhay at may karatula na lang na nakasabit.

Pinayuhan si Aurora ng among magdadal na lang palagi para mawala ang kanyang pangamba.



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Osang, nadawit sa drug probe

By Cristy Kasilag

NASA balita na naman ang kontrobersyal na si Rosanna "Osang" Roces matapos madawit ang kanyang pangalan sa ginagawang imbestigasyon ng bentahan ng ilegal na droga sa loob ng New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Nagkagulan sa House of Representatives Committee on Justice noong Oktubre 6 nang mabanggit ng witness na si Nonile Arile, isang dating pulis na ngayon ay nakapiit sa NBP dahil sa kasong kidnapping at pag patay, ang pangalan ng dating sexy star na si Osang.

Ayon kay Arlie, isa siyang asset ng pulis sa kulungan at kasama sa trabaho na Yun ay bantayan at alamin ang mga transak-



OSANG

syon ng ilegal na droga na ginagawa ng mga nakakulong na Chinese nationals sa

NBP, at alamin kung sino ang kanilang mga protector.

Ang sabi ni Arile ay pumupunta si Osang sa kulungan at dinadalaw ang Chinese drug lord na si Vicente Sy.

Naniniwala ang ilan na mayroong relasyon si Osang sa drug lord na si Vicente Sy.

Pero kaagad pinabulaanan ito ng aktres, na ang tunay na pangalan ay Jennifer Cruz Adriano, sa kanyang Facebook account.

"Paanong magiging mistress (ako) eh babae ang dinadala ko ke Enteng?" sabi ni Osang, 44.

Sinabi pa niya na isa lamang siyang "manager" ng mga babae na dinadala niya para sa mga inmates, at kumikita siya ng P25,000 tuwing mayroon siyang nadadala

na babae.

Nahinto lang daw ito nung minsan may nadala siyang babae na may sakit.

"Kung naging mistress ako, 'di sana bayaran ko ang P2 million na talo ko sa kaso sa GMA. Hindi na sana ako nagpapakahirap magtrabaho ngayon. Baka producer na ako," sabi ni Osang.

"Hindi droga ang business ko sa Bilibid: Monterey, taga deliver ng karne. Isang tao lang ang kausap ko doon, iyong sinasabi nilang si Vicente Sy. Madaling magtahi ng kwento pero mahirap ang magpatunay," aniya.

Pero sa pag-amin na nagdadala siya ng babae sa NBP para sa mga preso ay mayroon ngayong nag-iisip kung dapat bang kasuhan si Osang ng human trafficking.



MARK ANTHONY

Mark Anthony, nakitaan ng marijuana

By Cristy Kasilag

ANG isa sa tatlong myembro ng grupong Guwapings nuong Dekada 90 na si Mark Anthony Fernandez ay inaresto matapos makitaan ng marijuana sa Pampanga.

Nahuli ng mga pulis ang 37-anyos na si Mark nuong ika-3 ng Oktubre, dakong mga 8:30 ng gabi sa Barangay Virgen de los Remedios ng MacArthur Highway.

Ayon sa mga balita, naghigpit ang pagbabantay ng mga pulis sa area dahil nuong lamang Setyembre 29 ay may nahuli na silang isang tricycle driver sa lugar na iyon na may dalang 28 kilo ng marijuana na nagkakahalaga na P480,000.

Napansin ng mga pulis sa checkpoint ang kulay dilaw na Mustang sedan na kotse ni Mark dahil wala daw itong plaka sa harapan.

Mayroon din silang nakita na isang dark blue bag na mayroong butas na plastic bag na may laman na diumano na marijuana sa likod na upuan ng kotse ni Mark.

Pero imbes na tumigil si Mark sa checkpoint, humarurot daw ito paalis sa mga alagad ng batas at dito na nagsimula ang kanilang habulan sa kalsada. Dahil hindi hininto ng aktor ang kanyang kotse, binaril ng pulis ang gulong nito at dito na siya nahuli.

No bail ang kaso ng aktor dahil isang kilo diumano ng marijuana ang nakita sa kanya. Nag positive din siya sa drug test para sa marijuana.

Dati nang boluntaryong pumasok sa rehabilitation center si Mark dahil din sa ilegal na droga.

Si Mark ay nagmula sa isang showbiz na pamilya. Ang kanyang ama ay ang yumaong action star na si Rudy Fernandez at ang kanyang nanay naman ay si Alma Moreno.

Inamin diumano ni Mark na gumagamit siya ng marijuana para hindi siya magka cancer. Ipinaalam pa raw niya ito sa kanyang ama nung nabubuhay pa at binigyan siya ng permiso na gawin ito. Namatay si Rudy sa sakit na pancreatic cancer.

Hindi pa raw nabibisita ni Alma si Mark sa kulungan sa Pampanga dahil mataas pa ang kanyang alta presyon.

Nag-aalala naman ang kanyang step-mother, ang aktres na si Lorna Tolentino, kung hindi ba nilabag ang human rights ni Mark dahil ipinakita siya sa media na walang abogado.

54 celebrities in drug users list

By Maia Lopez

THE National Capital Region Police Office said there are 54 celebrities included in their updated list of drug users and pushers.

NCRPO director Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde said the names on the list were based on information provided by actresses Sabrina M. and Krista Miller, who were both arrested for possession of illegal drugs.

Albayalde declined to name the celebrities, however, saying they were being subjected to validation.

Most of the celebrities on the list were using shabu, cocaine and party drugs, he said, adding that the list is growing.

"Every time we make arrests, more names are being included because they were all telling us the persons they transact with," he said.

Miller and two models were arrested in Quezon City in a buy-bust operation. Police found a sachet of shabu and several thousand pesos in cash.

Miller was earlier linked to a convicted



SABRINA

drug lord – Ricardo "Chacha" Camato – who was detained at the NBP in Muntinlupa City in 2014. She was spotted in a private hospital visiting Camato.

Former sexy actress Sabrina M (real name: Karen Pallasigue) was arrested in a

separate buy-buy operation also in Quezon City.

Quezon City police director Sr. Supt. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar presented to the media a surveillance video showing Pallasigue in the act of sniffing shabu.

Actor Mark Anthony Fernandez, for his part, was arrested in Pampanga province for marijuana possession.

The former matinee idol tried to slip past a police checkpoint, resulting in a car chase that prompted the police to shoot the tire of Fernandez's car.

Police found a kilo of marijuana, with an estimated street value of P15,000, inside Fernandez's car.

In 2004, Fernandez voluntarily entered the Bicutan Rehabilitation Center.

Earlier, Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said several celebrities have been calling him, offering to clear their names.

"There are celebrities who call me to say they want to take a drug test in front of me to prove that they really aren't involved in illegal drugs," he said.

"I don't want to say their names (but) for those who are worried that their names will be linked, it's a chance for them to come forward and take a drug test. So we're fair and square about this. It's not just about rumors and character assassination," Dela Rosa added.



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Bikolana nanalong Miss World Philippines

By Cristy Kasilag

ANG modelo na si Catriona Elisa Mag-nayon Gray ang itinanghal na Miss World Philippines 2016.

Si Catriona, 22, ang lalaban sa Miss World beauty pageant sa ika-18 ng Disyembre sa Washington, D.C., United

States.

Ang half-Australian half-Filipino na si Catriona ay ipinanganak sa Australia pero, nung siya ay mag high school na, nagdesisyon siya na tumira sa Oas, Albay.

Malapit din ang kanyang puso para sa mga kabataan ng Smokey Mountain. Lubos ang kanyang pagsuporta sa PARAISSO

Bright Beginnings Project na tumutulong sa mga kabataan sa Smokey Mountain.

Sa katunayan, nabanggit pa niya ito sa Question and Answer portion ng Top 5 ng pageant nuong ika-2 ng Oktubre.

Nung tinanong siya kung bakit siya dapat ang maging Miss World Philippines, sumagot si Catriona na: "To be a Miss

World is to be passed a torch that burns with passion, and purpose."

"If I become Miss World Philippines, I will carry my voice and my essence to carry that torch and to set charitable causes alight, such as my personal advocacy, the Paraiso Bright Beginnings Project," sabi niya.



CATRIONA

Melason, nagkabalikan ulit

By Cristy Kasilag

MATAPOS ang ilang buwan na hiwalayan ay back in each other's arms muli ang komedyanteng aktres na si Melai Cantiveros at ang aktor na asawa nito na si Jason Francisco.

At ang pa bonus pa nila ay buntis si Melai sa pangalawa nilang anak, na magtatatlong buwan ng may dinadala sa kanyang sinapupunan.

Meron nang unang anak sina Jason at Melai: si Amelia Lucille "Mela" Francisco na dalawang taong gulang na.

Ibinalita ni Melai na, sa katunayan, ang anak niyang si Mela ang unang nakaalam tungkol sa kanyang pagbubuntis bago si Jason.

Nuong Hulyo ay napabalita na nagkaroon ng problema ang mag-asawa at inkala na tapos na ang "Melason".

Pero bago matapos ang buwan ng Setyembre, sinabi nila na mahal na mahal pa rin nila ang isa't-isa at nalagpasan na nila ang problema.

Napag isip-isipan daw nila na nakakahiya sa Diyos dahil nung nagpakasal sila ay nangako sila na magsasama ng habang-buhay. Para sa kanila sagrado daw ang kasal.

Dating napabalita na ang ugat ng kanilang hiwalayan ay nung nagkaroon ng partner, sa katauhan ni Carlo Aquino, si Melai sa television series na "We Will Survive" sa ABS-CBN.

Ayon sa balita, 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.

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 natutulong. Nagtagal din ng dalawang buwan ang ganitong set-up.



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Horoscope

Capricorn December 22 to January 19
Huwag ipilit ang hindi puwede. Tandaan ang mga asal na tinuro sa iyo ng magulang mo.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18
Tanggapin kung ano ang meron ka. Mas magiging masaya ang buhay kung magiging kuntento.

Pisces February 19 to March 20
Kilalanin ang mga tao sa paligid mo. Maaring may inililihim sila sa iyo.

Aries March 21 to April 19
Ipagpaliban ang mga malalaking desisyon. Mainam na pag-isipan muna ang mga ito.

Taurus April 20 to May 20
Tandaan na walang lihim na hindi maibubunyag. Ito ang dapat na pamantayan mo sa mga susunod na hakbang.

Gemini May 21 to June 20
Maging masaya sa tagumpay ng ibang tao. Iyan ang tanda ng pagiging mabuting kaibigan.

Cancer June 21 to July 22
Alam mo ang sagot sa mga tanong mo. Huwag magbulag-bulagan.

Leo July 23 to August 22
Hayaan mo ang ibang tao sa kanilang mga desisyon. May sarili silang pag-iisip para gawin ito.

Virgo August 23 to September 22
Gawin ang lahat upang maging masaya. Hindi maganda na puro lungkot lang ang buhay.

Libra September 23 to October 22
Iwasan ang mga bagay na alam mong hindi mabuti. Ingatan ang iyong reputasyon.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21
Halata naman na may gusto kang makamit. Ang tanong lang ay kung pinagsisikapan mo ba ito.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21
Handa ka na ba sa mga bagay na alam mong darating sa buhay mo? Ito ang panahon para paghandaan ang mga bagay na ito.

What's Cooking?

Breaking bread with family and friends is always a celebration. And so, why not up the ante and make it more special? For this issue, we present you a simple yet mighty tasty recipe: **Stir-fried Beef and Capsicum with Spaghetti Noodles**. Have fun cooking and sharing this meal with your loved ones!

Ingredients:
Half-pack spaghetti noodles
¼ kg beef strips
1 clove garlic
¼ cup olive oil
1/8 cup sweet soy sauce
2 pcs. red capsicum (sliced)
salt and pepper to taste

White Sauce
Bring the water to boil and place spaghetti noodles until done or aldente.
Mince the garlic.

Slice beef into strips and marinate with sweet soy sauce and season with salt and pepper.

In a non-stick pan, heat the oil and sauté garlic until fragrant, add the beef and cook until half way. Then, add the spaghetti and mix well. Serve hot.



By Chef Jay Dator

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre:
M/F CockLoft, Wing Tat Commercial Building, #97 Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong. For enquiries, please call 28507714 or 28507724



Babae: Iki-kiss mo pa ba ako kapag tumaba ako?
Lalaki: Oo naman. Goodbye kiss!

Mga nakakatawang headlines:
Dalawang kalbo, nagsabunutan...
Capt. Hook dumaan sa Quiapo, pinirata...
Pala-isdaan, nasunog...
Tindera ng suka, tinoyo...
Teacher nagkamali, tinuruan ng leksyon...
Basurero nagsampa ng kaso, binasura...
Tindera ng tubig, namatay sa uhaw...

Juan: Pare, amoy tinapay ka ah...
Pedro: Talaga? Anong klaseng tinapay?
Juan: Pare, putok!

Juan: Pare, malungkot ka ata?

Pedro: Marami akong problema, pre.
Juan: Wala yan, pare. Tumingin ka sa akin...
Pedro: Pare naman, please lang. Huwag mo nang dagdagan pa!

Pedro: Pare, ano ang holiday para sa mga nanay?
Juan: Eh di Mother's Day!
Pedro: Ano ang holiday para sa mga tatay?
Juan: Eh di Father's Day!
Pedro: Ano naman ang holiday para sa mga buntis?
Juan: Eh di Labor Day!

Pasyente: Doc, takot ako sa bunot eh!
Dentista: Heto gamot na pampalakas ng loob.
Pasyente: (uminom ng gamot)
Dentista: Matapang ka na ba?
Pasyente: Oo doc, kapag may gumalaw sa ngipin ko gugulpihin ko!

Juan: Pare, bakit malungkot ka?
Pedro: Ang asawa ko nag-hire ng driver, gwapo, bata at macho.
Juan: Anong problema? Nagseselos ka?
Pedro: Nagtataka lang ako kasi wala naman

kaming sasakyan eh!

Manghuhula: Sorry misis, but your husband will meet a violent death.

Wife: Alam ko po iyon! Ang gusto kong malaman kung maabswelto ba ako?

Flight attendant: Sir, chewing gum po para hindi sumakit ang tenga ninyo during the flight!

Pasahero: Thank you!
Makalipas ang isang oras...

Pasahero: Miss, paano po ba tatanggalin itong chewing gum sa tenga ko?

Matapos ang dalawang taon na pag-aaral sa Manila ay masayang umuwi ang anak sa kanilang probinsya.

Anak: Itay, sa wakas natapos na rin ako sa pag-aaral.

Tatay: Magaling anak! Ano ba ang tinapos mo?

Anak: AB, Itay!

Tatay: AB lang inabutan ka ng dalawang taon? Ako, isang taon lang tapos ko ang ABC hanggang XYZ!

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

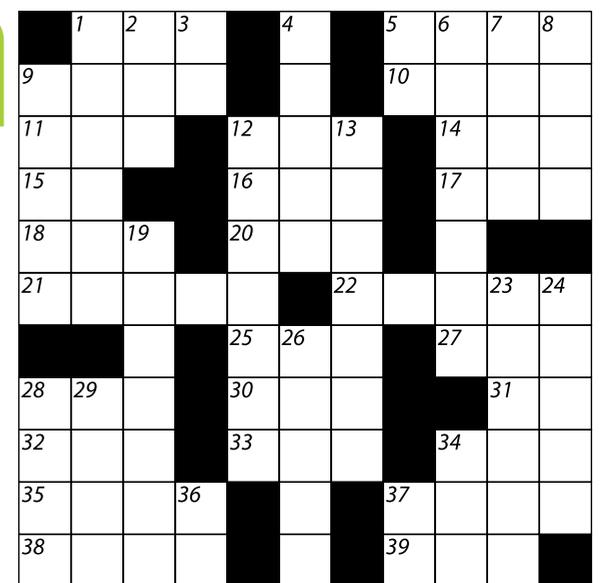
- 1 Taguri sa bayani
- 5 Gulok
- 9 Sanib
- 10 Kung nasaan ang Patikul
- 11 Katutubo sa Aklan
- 12 Coach na Cone
- 14 _____ Pinas
- 15 _____ Solidaridad
- 16 Habag
- 17 Katutubong maitim
- 18 Titik sa pasabog
- 20 Yugto ng race
- 21 Banoy
- 22 Hinuha
- 25 Buwan sa kalendaryo
- 27 Mr. Missuari
- 28 Barkilyos
- 30 Artistang Mina
- 31 Signal sa trapiko
- 32 Unibersidad sa Sta. Mesa

- 33 Mr. Tatad
- 34 Taguri sa maestra
- 35 Batid
- 37 Kabisera ng Peru
- 38 Sawsawang kulay itim
- 39 Cassius Clay

PABABA

- 1 Panukat ng bigas
- 2 Hamak
- 3 Simbolo ng titanium
- 4 Hindi komportable
- 5 International School
- 6 Bandido
- 7 Tubig-dagat
- 8 Boluntaryo
- 9 Daong
- 12 Malala
- 13 Manipis ang katawan
- 19 Pandesal o monay
- 23 Lupaypay

- 24 Bango ng pagkain
- 26 Pulbos sa panaderya
- 28 Kuwatro
- 29 Isla
- 34 Libo
- 36 Month:daglat
- 37 _____ Loma



Answer to last puzzle

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



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