

# HONG KONG NEWS

The No.1 Foreign Newspaper Vol.XVI No.358

December 1, 2016

## 'Blacklist erring HK employers'



OUTRAGE. OFWs in HK protest on November 25 against the burial of former President Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Story on Page 18).

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) is holding talks with the Indonesian consulate general so that employers who are blacklisted by the POLO will also be barred from hiring Indonesian domestic

workers.

Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre said he was set to meet with Deputy Consul General Rafail Walangitan of the Indonesian consulate to discuss the proposed sharing of their lists of blacklisted Hong Kong employers.

"So, when (an employer) is blacklisted here (at the POLO), it will also be the same with them (at the Indonesian consulate)," Dela Torre said in an interview.

"I already have a schedule with the Consulate General of Indonesia. I will meet with the Deputy Consul General,"

he added.

Dela Torre said the POLO wanted to put an end to the practice of abusive employers hiring Indonesian domestic workers when they are barred from hiring Filipinos.

Turn to page 18

Prison chaplain Fr. John Wotherspoon warns Pinays against drug mule recruiters in HK and PH.



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MIAA General Manager Ed Monreal says NAIA will stop collecting terminal fees from OFWs by the first quarter of next year.



Page 28

A US court declares that BB Gandanghari, formerly known as the actor Rustom Padilla, is now officially a woman.

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# 'More women being recruited as drug mules'

By Philip C. Tubeza

MORE and more women are being recruited as drug mules to bring cocaine into Hong Kong, a Catholic priest warned Filipinas in the city.

Fr. John Wotherspoon, Lai Chi Kok prison chaplain, said Nigerians and even some Filipinas are recruiting domestic workers in Hong Kong and Macau for the illegal drug trade.

"This is a very important point and it applies to Filipinos and Africans---there's virtually no men coming to Hong Kong as drug mules. The drug lords from about the end of last year have virtually stopped sending men as drug mules to Hong Kong," Fr. Wotherspoon said.

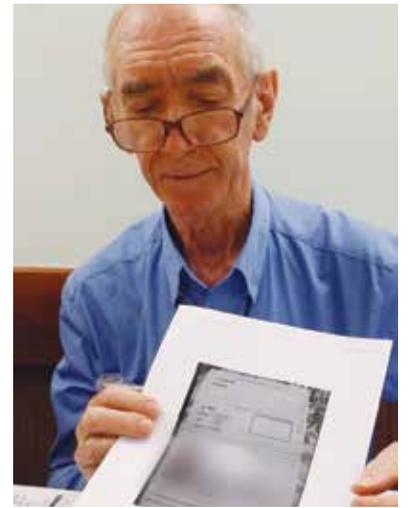
"They're recruiting women now because women are more desperate to getting money for their families and maybe

they're easier to fool with gifts, money, or love, or whatever," he added.

Wotherspoon has started a campaign and put up websites to warn potential drug mules by uploading the letters of drug mules arrested here in Hong Kong. Among the letter-senders were Filipina drug mules. (<http://hkdrugblog.org/campaign/2016/index.htm> and <http://www.philippinesblog.info/>)

"Some of the Filipino mules claim they did not know what they were carrying to Hong Kong. They claim these were boy-friends or friends and they trusted them and they only gave them something at the last minute. That's often a tactic they use," Wotherspoon said.

"(The package is ) all wrapped up and (given when) you're about to go to the airport. So, this should be a message to people in Philippines. Be careful about this



Wotherspoon

group," he added.

Wotherspoon said the biggest group of female drug mules arrested at Hong Kong International Airport this year admitted to getting their drugs from Sao Paulo in Brazil.

"Most of them are being recruited to go to Sao Paulo and then they're given the drugs there and then they come here. They're also being sent I think to other places but Hong Kong is one of their main destinations," he said.

"Nearly all the cocaine is coming from Colombia. To get it to Hong Kong, they usually send it from Sao Paulo. They go through Dubai or somewhere else. They don't want to be seen as coming directly from Sao Paulo or Colombia because that raises a red flag," he added.

Wotherspoon said many of the recruiters were Nigerians and they operate both here in Hong Kong and in the Philippines.

"It's basically the Nigerians who are at the back of this, as far as Hong Kong is concerned," he said.

He noted that the police in the Philippines had arrested a Nigerian, who was carrying a Ugandan passport, and his Filipino wife after they sent four Filipinas to Hong Kong as drug mules.

However, he noted that the Nigerian's nephew, a certain Chris Williams, was still sending out Filipina drug mules from the Philippines.

Wotherspoon said there were also Filipinas recruiting their compatriots into the illegal drug trade, one of whom is based in Macau and was able to trick another Filipina to bring illegal drugs from Dubai to Hong Kong.

He said there were also Nigerians in Dubai airport who trick tourists or passengers into becoming drug mules.

"They check people and say 'Would you like to buy these chocolates or biscuits? I bought too many. There's one Filipina based in Sweden. She was tricked like that,'" Wotherspoon said.

"She was acquitted at the Eastern courts in August after carrying four kilos of cocaine. It turned out the receipts (for the packages) did not match her travel dates. As a result, she was acquitted," he added.

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# Bamboo headlines PrimeCredit show

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

WINTER may have come to Hong Kong, but on November 27, PrimeCredit treated its clients and various stakeholders to an explosive show headlined by Filipino rocker Bamboo.

Staged at the West Kowloon Cultural District, PrimeCredit held the Superstar Search Season 4, where eight contestants battled it out for the right to be the grand champion.

Joy Carbonell of Nueva Ecija bested seven other contestants to take the crown,

winning P150,000 in prize money, a personal recording album, a professional singing course in Hong Kong with Nobel Gabasan, make-over and feature in magazines, newspapers and other media, and to be the new PrimeCredit brand ambassador.

Jerick Mora of Caloocan was 1st runner-up, winning P50,000, and Sheena Blando of Abra was 2nd runner-up, winning P25,000.

Carbonell got a first taste of what it means to be the grand champion of the Superstar Search Season 4 when she shared the stage with Bamboo for a duet of Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror".

It was a particularly touching moment when Carbonell and Mora's mothers also went up on stage to accompany their children to receive their respective prizes and awards. The two mothers flew in from the Philippines to show their support to their OFW children.

Each of the eight grand finalists also received a Samsung Galaxy mobile phone, \$1,000 Fortress coupon, and crystal plaque.



Bamboo with Carbonell

Before the grand champion was announced, Leegie Agpalo PrimeCredit Superstar Search Season 3 grand champion, sang two of her single from her recording album.

Agpalo said winning the tilt last year had changed her life.

After the competition, PrimeCredit clients were treated to Bamboo's explosive performance, with a repertoire con-

sisting of his classic hits including the swoon-worthy "214", groovy "Elesi" and "Hinahanap-hanap Kita", hopeful "Awit ng Kabataan" as well as his comeback hits such as "Much Has Been Said", "Tatsulok", "Hallelujah", and "Noypi".

He also performed "Firepower", "Call", "Lingering Love", "Untitled", among others from his latest album "Bless This Mess".

## 'Get OEC exemption 2 weeks in advance'

By Philip C. Tubeza

OVERSEAS Filipino workers (OFWs) who are going on vacation this Christmas should get their overseas employment certificate (OEC) exemption two weeks before they go home, Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre.

Dela Torre urged OFWs who have yet to register on the BM Online system to come early to avoid the Christmas rush, espe-

cially on Sundays.

"We're coming to the rush period. They should come early. Siguro mga two weeks before they leave para di masyado magrush," Dela Torre said.

He said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) would be open until 8 p.m. on Sundays to accommodate applicants.

"Yung ibang kababayan natin ay walang curfew sa kanilang mga amo so pwede silang pumunta ng gabi," Dela Torre said.

He said the POLO opened 18 windows for the issuance of OFW exemptions on November 27 but the lines were still long.

"We're getting volunteers. There are many church organizations na tutulong para pwede ring mag-isyu sa kanilang mga lugar," Dela Torre said.

The POLO is issuing an OEC exemption slip to those who have yet to register on the BM Online system so that they would not have to pay a \$20 registration fee.

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- Promotion Period is from July 7, 2016 to December 31, 2016 ("Promotion Period", both dates inclusive).
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Sep 1 - Oct 31, 2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lucky Draw - Nov 6, 2016	2	1
Nov 1 - Dec 31, 2016	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lucky Draw - Jan 8, 2017 (3 PM)	2	1

- All non-winning raffle tickets will be collected after each draw and pooled for a Grand Draw on January 8, 2017 at 4 PM. Two winners will be drawn for the Grand Draw.

Loan Draw Down Period	Draw Schedule	Number of Winners	
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Jul 7, 2016 - Dec 31, 2016	Grand Draw - Jan 8, 2017 (4 PM)	1	1

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# FDH says employer owes her \$150,000

By Cheryl Arcibal and Philip C. Tubeza

A judge in Sha Tin has dismissed the petition of a Filipino domestic worker to stop her trial for breach of condition of stay.

Magistrate Ivy Chui on November 8 dismissed the petition of the worker, surnamed Dumayag, after the Filipina failed to convince the judge that she was a victim of human trafficking.

"I am not satisfied that this defendant is a victim of human trafficking. The defendant was not deprived of any of her liberty and she could communicate with others freely," Judge Chui said.

"I don't think I will need to adjourn this case. We should proceed with trial," she added.

Dumayag's lawyer, Philip Ross, asked the magistrate to defer her ruling pending the resolution of a case in the High Court that might have an impact on his client's petition.

However, Magistrate Chui said she saw no reason to adjourn this case any further and Dumayag will have her day in court.

The domestic worker's troubles began right after she arrived in Hong Kong back

in 2008.

She came here in March of that year but, instead of working from her employer, she worked for her employer's daughter in Rhythm Garden, San Po Kong in Wong Tai Sin.

Her employer's daughter—surnamed Leung—has a son who is mentally disabled.

"Kahit 19 years old na siya ngayon, pang bata pa rin. Ina-assist ko pa kahit sa paliligo," Dumayag told the court.

She continued working for Leung even after Leung's mother died in 2010. When Dumayag's contract expired in 2011, Leung promised to renew her contract and get her a new visa.

"Bago matapos ang kontrata, nagtanong ako kung sino na ang pipirma. Ang sabi po niya, siya na ang pipirma kaya hindi na ako naghanap ng iba," Dumayag said.

Leung allegedly told the Filipina that she had contacts in the Immigration Department but, despite repeated promises, she failed to produce a working visa for Dumayag.

"Every month, she said, 'Don't worry. It's being taken care of'. I didn't have a



Sha Tin Magistrates' Courts

visa. Paano kung mahuli ako ng mga pulis? She kept assuring me," Dumayag said.

She added that Leung also kept her passport.

The Filipina also claimed that Leung owed her \$150,000 because she was not paid her proper salary from 2009 to 2015. She said there were months that she was given only \$100, \$150, or \$200.

"How did you survive?" Judge Chui asked the Filipina.

"Hindi naman ako maluho. Basta may pamasaha ako papuntang church, OK na. Maghapon naman ako sa church," Dumayag said.

She said that she had also grown close to her mentally-disabled ward.

"Napamahal na po kami pareho," she said.

Dumayag decided to surrender to Immigration authorities only last year after she saw her contract and passport inside Leung's bag while cleaning it.

"Nakita ko yung papeles ko na wala pa ring visa. Sinabi ng kapatid at mga kaibigan ko na overstaying na pala ako," she said.

Dumayag said she sought the help of the Philippine Consulate General (PCG) and was told to surrender to Immigration. But

she could not surrender immediately because she did not have her passport.

After the PCG issued a temporary travel document to Dumayag, her sister, who is also working in Hong Kong, went to see Leung on Aug. 2, 2015.

"My sister spoke to my boss. My sister asked how come I overstayed. Nakalimutan daw po niyang i-process," Dumayag said.

"Nagbigay siya ng assurance na aayusin niya. Marami raw siyang kakilala," she added.

Dumayag said Leung then talked to her and asked if she wanted to continue to work for her.

"Ang sabi ko, gusto ko ng visa," she said.

Dumayag said she gave Leung two more weeks but she again failed to come up with a working visa for the Filipina. And so, she decided to surrender to Immigration on Oct. 22, 2015.

Dumayag also filed a case against Leung at the Labour Tribunal for her \$150,000-claim in back wages but the court dismissed it. The worker has filed an appeal.

## Kutis artista at mahubog na katawan nakamit ng OFW

Naging curious si Belly Ann Soriano sa kanyang hitsura dahil napuna niyang umitim ang kutis at nagkaroon siya ng bilbil. Nabanggit niya ito sa kaibigan at nirekomenda nito na gumamit ng upgraded Dream Love 1000 5 in 1 body essence lotion, gawa sa England na may 3D hologram model silver seal. Gamit ito ng kaibigan na nagkaroon ng sexy shaped white skin body.

Bumili daw siya ng 1 tube mula sa Victory Supermarket sa World Wide House sa halagang HK\$98 lamang. Pagkauwi at pagkatapos maligo ay ginamit niya ang imported lotion ng ayon sa instruction sheet na nasa loob ng kahon. Sa loob lamang ng ilang linggo, pumuti ang kanyang buong mukha at katawan. Nang timbangin ang sarili, nalaman nabawasan siya ng 4 kgs. Nabawasan ng 2 inches na taba sa baywang

at balakang. Nabawasan din ng 1½ inch sa braso at mga hita na nakapagbigay rin ng korte sa kanyang pangangatawan. Mas naging confident siya ngayon sa kanyang hitsura.

Ang pangangalaga sa katawan at balat ay magkasama. May kasabihan na "When you feel good about your appearance, you'll be astonished and how good you will feel about yourself." Magkasama ang dalawang bagay na ito at kung makakakuha ka ng tamang produkto na mangangalaga sa iyong katawan at balat, mas magiging kumpleto at malusog ang iyong pangangatawan. Ang pinakaimportante sa lahat ay huwag papalit-palit ng produktong gamit, ipagpatuloy kung ano ang nakasanayan o hiyang ng kutis.

(Article provided by: LT)



Before After

Belly Ann Soriano

## Unlicensed agency in Fanling convicted

By Peter Castillo

THE Labour Department (LD) has reminded persons who plan to open an employment agency (EA) that they should have a proper license before they open shop.

The LD issued the reminder after a person was convicted at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts and fined \$5,000 last month for operating an EA without a valid license.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by two foreign domestic workers in December 2015. They said the defendant was arranging job referrals for them and overcharging them in Fanling.

"Investigation revealed sufficient evidence that the person had operated an EA without a license. With the FDHs willing to act as prosecution witnesses, the LD then took out prosecution against the person," a government statement said.

According to the law, all EAs must obtain a license issued by the LD "before undertaking any EA activities."

This is the eighth conviction secured against employment agencies for overcharging or unlicensed operation.

The other seven EAs that were convicted earlier were Marks Domestic Helper Agency Limited, Ka Ying Employment Agency, Enoch Employment Agency, Gold Union Employment Agency, Jen's Employment Agency Limited, Ursula Advanced Employment Center and Tamas Employment Agency.



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# Be faithful to avoid AIDS – nurse

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

WITH the rising number of sexually-transmitted illnesses, especially HIV-AIDS, in the Philippines, sexual abstinence and monogamy remain the main defense against them.

Lawyer Glenn Luansing, also a registered nurse, said the number of new HIV-AIDS patients in the Philippines nearly reached 12,000 for the first time in 2015 since the government started tracking the number in 1984.

As of June 2016, new HIV and AIDS cases in the Philippines have topped 8,000.

Meanwhile, from 1984 to June 2016, there were 4,302 recorded cases of HIV-AIDS among overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Of the number, 3,622 were males and 1,349 of them were homosexuals, and 1,067 were bisexuals. The median age of the patients were 32.

Among Filipinos, Luansing said, vulnerable groups were men having sex with other men, sex workers, long-drive truck drivers, call center agents, and seafarers.

“There are no proven cures yet for HIV



Luansing

infection and AIDS. Antibiotics do not prevent HIV and there's no vaccine yet,” Luansing said during a forum at the Philippine Consulate General on November 13.

Preventive measures remain the best defense against HIV-AIDS infection and

these refer to safe sex practices such as “being faithful or mutual monogamy” and “correct, consistent, and continuous condom use”.

Presently, Filipinos who have HIV-AIDS get free treatment from the Department of Health, Luansing said.

The medication given them consists of antibiotics that treat the symptoms and other infections resulting from the weakening of the patient's immune system.

“In 2020, the Department of Health's funds for HIV-AIDS treatment would be depleted,” he said.

“Hindi ho kasi priority ang health sa budget ng Pilipinas. Mas malaki ang budget for education, defense,” Luansing added.

Besides high costs of treatment, other social and economic consequences of HIV-AIDS are the loss of people's productive years, the rise of dependents, and strain on support system.

He also warned that under Republic Act 8504 or the Philippines AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998, any person who spread news about a person having AIDS would be criminally liable and may be prosecuted.

Luansing said even clinics and medical facilities are barred from disclosing the HIV-AIDS test results of patients.

“Iyong test results, number lang ang identity ng patient kaya hindi nila alam kung sino ang nagpa-test,” he said.

## File your annulment now, lawyer says

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A government lawyer advised Filipinos wanting to seek annulment from their spouse to do it soon.

In a forum held by members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines at the Philippine Consulate General on November 20, Angeli Albaña, who works at the office of the Solicitor General (OSG), said there was a directive ordering them to refrain from opposing any annulment petition.

“There was an office order in 2013 by the former Solicitor General at sabi niya hindi tayo mag-a-appeal-masyado ng annulment. Hindi pa binabawi ang order na ito, so grab the chance,” said Albaña.

Besides annulment, she said there were two other ways to untangle a messy marriage - petition for declaration of nullity of marriage, and legal separation. In declaration of nullity of marriage, it is as if the marriage never existed because it was void from the beginning.

There are eight valid grounds to declare as null a marriage - one of the party was a minor at the time of marriage; the marriage was solemnized by a person without legal authority; absence of a valid marriage license; bigamous marriage; mistake as to the identity of a party; subsequent marriages; incestuous marriage; and non-recording of requirements.

As for annulment, the ground used is “psychological incapacity”, which she said was the “equivalent of divorce in the Philippines.”

The OSG, Albaña said, looks into three grounds to oppose or appeal a petition for annulment citing psychological incapacity - gravity; antecedent; and incurability.

Legal separation is the third option, Albaña said. She said many overseas Filipino workers choose this option because it would still bar the philandering spouse from getting married again.

In legal separation, the assets of the couple would be separated, but they remain married.



Albaña

## Compassionate gestures ng mga amo binago ang buhay ng Pinay

Medyo matagal na daw nagtatrabaho dito si Charito Villo at napansin na nitong huling uwi niya sa Pilipinas ay tila hindi masyadong malambing ang asawa hanggang sa pagbalik dito, napapaisip kung bakit kaya.

Minsang day off ay naikuwento ito sa kaibigan pinayuhan siyang bumili ng upgraded Dream Love 1000 seksuwal na pabango, gawa sa England. Gamit din daw ito ng kaibigan at ng mga sikat na celebrities, napatunayan daw nitong epektibo ang pabango dahil halos parehas sila ng suliranin. Naengganyo si Charito na bumili at sinabi na gagamitin sa sunod na bakasyon.

Pagkabili ay sinubukan daw niya itong gamitin ng sumunod na day off at nagulat daw siya pagkalabas ng kuwarta na mabungaran ang among babae pati na asawa nito. Maaga daw nagising at nagkasabay pa daw sila sa loob ng lift, nagulat siya dahil

nagcompliment ang among lalaki na sinabing your perfume smells good. Inayunan daw ng among babae sinabi I like also the smell. Mga demanding ang amo niya at napansin na mula ng araw na iyon ay naging napakamagiliw na daw nilang magutos. Naisip niyang dahil sa seksuwal perfume kaya naging mababait na sila tuwing maguutos.

Sumunod na taon ay nagbakasyon siya at saka niya napatunayang muli na epektibo nga ang pabango dahil sa airport pa lang, grabeng tamis ng halik sa labi niya ang ginawa ng asawa at bumulong pa ito na makauwi na sana sila kaagad. Naging napaka-colorful nang kaniyang bakasyon na para silang bagong kasal. Laking pasasalamat niya sa kaibigan at sa Dream Love 1000 seksuwal perfume na binili mula sa Sun Fung shop sa Worlwide sa halagang HK\$88 lamang.

(Article provided by: LT)



Charito Villo

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## Pinay charged in court for helping out in Korean resto

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THE day of July 27, 2016 would prove to be fateful for a 43-year-old Filipino domestic helper here in Hong Kong.

Early in the morning Candelaria Fabroa would receive a phone call, informing her that her sister in the US had passed away.

And before 12 noon she would be taken by police over suspicions of breaching her condition of stay for helping out in a restaurant owned by her Korean employer in Shau Kei Wan.

In the first day of Fabroa's trial before the Shatin Magistrates' Courts, the prosecution presented the Labour inspector who, along with her two colleagues, posed as customers to the "Big Mama" Korean fastfood restaurant.

The Labour inspector told the court that at about 11:15 a.m., she and her colleagues were at the "Big Mama" restaurant. She said there were two non-Chinese females in the restaurant, one a "chubby" woman, and the other, "medium-built".

The prosecution witness said she went near the cash register of the restaurant, where the "medium built non-Chinese woman was." At the cash register, the Labour inspector ordered one bowl of chicken. Then one of her colleagues suggested to get some Korean drinks too. The defendant then pointed to some grape drinks, and the Labour inspector confirmed that they would be ordering one bowl of chicken and three grape drinks.

The defendant then placed the order on the cash register and said the order amounted to \$84. The Labour inspector gave a \$100-note and her colleague gave two \$2 coins. The prosecution witness said the defendant gave them a \$20-note from the cash register and handed the receipt.

She said there was a staff member, who was described as a "chubby woman", of the restaurant who was present during the transaction. The defendant, said the witness, then brought their food to their table. She also said that after serving them, they

also ordered fried dumplings which were identified by the defendant as "mandu".

The prosecution witness said that after that they want back to their table and at 11:45 a.m., police and officers from the Immigration Department arrived at the scene and arrested Fabroa.

Fabroa, meanwhile, told the court that she started working for her employer's family in 2014, and that she started working in Hong Kong in 1994. In Mrs. Park's home, she takes care of her employer, her husband, their 12-year-old daughter, and one elderly woman.

Fabroa said that when her employer opened the restaurant in July 2016, she would go there about three times a week as she would be told to bring home food from the restaurant or to get money from Mrs. Park to buy food.

On July 27, Fabroa said, she received a phone call from her niece that her sister who was in the US had passed away. She was distraught, and was told by her employer to get some fresh air.

While out walking, her employer called her and told her to go to the restaurant where they will meet so the defendant could be given money to make some eel soup for Mr. Park.

Upon arriving at "Big Mama", Fabroa saw Rachel, another Filipina, who works at the restaurant. The defendant told Rachel about the death of her sister, and the latter, saying it was her birthday told Fabroa that they should still celebrate and buy coffee and cook Filipino-style noodles.

While preparing the noodles, some delivery came in, and then three customers also entered the restaurant.

Fabroa said that because Rachel was busy checking the items that were delivered, the latter asked her to assist the customers who were ordering their food.

Shortly after the police came to arrest her, the defendant said her employer arrived at the restaurant.

The trial of the case will resume on November 30.

## NAIA to stop collecting terminal fee from OFWs

By Philip C. Tubeza

Finally.

Starting March 2017, the P550 terminal fee at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will no longer be included in the airline tickets of the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), a ranking airport official said.

Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Ed Monreal said this morning (November 28) that OFWs will no longer have to queue to get a refund once the new policy is implemented within the first quarter of next year.

"We want to provide hassle-free service to all our OFWs at the NAIA terminals," Monreal said.

It was former NAIA General Manager Angel Honrado who included the fee, known as the (IPSC) International Passenger Service Charge, in international airline tickets in February 2015.

This led to protests from OFW groups because, under the law, OFWs are supposed to be exempted from paying the fee.

Honrado countered that OFWs could get a refund after the immigration counters at the NAIA but many complained that the lines were too long and that they did not

get a refund because they would have missed their flight.

Monreal said that his office is finishing the technical details with international airlines so that they would stop collecting the fee from OFWs.

The airport fee imposed by Honrado was opposed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, which passed strong resolutions urging him to stop the collection of the fee, but Honrado stood his ground.

Monreal said his office was ready to refund OFWs who can present a copy of their E-ticket, boarding pass and passport.



OFWs line up at the NAIA Terminal 3 to get their terminal fee refund

## Ex-FDH admits to bringing in cocaine

By Philip C. Tubeza

A former domestic worker has admitted at the High Court to bringing in \$2.3 million worth of cocaine, some of which were hidden in her "tailor-made" underwear.

Susan B. Cumpio, 53, pleaded guilty to drug trafficking after she was caught at the Hong Kong International Airport carrying 1.2 kilograms of cocaine in July last year.

"Oo, inaamin ko (Yes, I admit it)," Cumpio told Judge Kevin Zervos on November 18.

The judge set the next hearing on the case on February 1 after the defense asked for an adjournment after Cumpio claimed she had offered to help investigators but was turned down.

The airport policemen who arrested Cumpio said she remained silent after her arrest and so there was no "controlled delivery" for the drugs but the Filipina said she had offered to give them information.

Cumpio was arrested on July 15, 2015 after she was caught with 1,999 grams of power, some of it hidden in her underwear, after landing at the HKIA from Brazil, via Dubai.

"During Customs clearance, Customs officers found her gait unnatural. Upon further checking, about two kilograms of suspected cocaine were found wrapped around her thighs and



The contraband

concealed inside a tailor-made underwear she was wearing," a government statement said.

Chemical tests later showed that the powder contained 1,210 grams of cocaine worth a street value of \$2,323.10

Investigators said she remained silent during the initial investigation but her lawyer said she offered to call the person who was going to receive the contraband but the offer was rejected.

Her lawyer added that she also had her "minder" with her in her flight.

Cumpio's lawyer said that it was her "African boyfriend" in Brazil who recruited the Filipina into the drug trade. She had been a widow since 2005 and has a 17-year-old son back in the Philippines.

Her lawyer said she was a former casual shopkeeper who left the Philippines in 1992 to work in Singapore and Vietnam. She worked in a restaurant in

Vietnam and stayed there until she returned to the Philippines in 1996. She got married the following year.

In 1999, she again tried to find work in Malaysia and here in Hong Kong but she could not find a job until she ended up working as a domestic worker in Brazil for two years.

It was there that she "fell in love" with her African boyfriend, Cumio's lawyer said.

He said Cumio's boyfriend got hooked into drugs and started abusing the Filipina up to a point that she supposedly feared for her life.

She reported the incident to the Brazilian police and her boyfriend was arrested while she took shelter in church, the lawyer said.

But after his release, they got together again and the abuse started anew. It was then that her boyfriend offered her to work as a drug mule. Since it gave her the opportunity to return to the Philippines, she accepted the job, her lawyer added.

However, Judge Zervos pointed out that her passport was renewed in the Philippines on Nov. 5, 2014, or seven months before her trip to Brazil and then to Hong Kong with the drugs.

He asked how could it happen if Cumpio was in Brazil and could not leave without her boyfriend's help. Cumpio's lawyer said he would clarify that point with the defendant.



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# Pinoy threatens GF with cutter

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

WHEN his girlfriend broke up with him, Larry Balanag took out a cutter and threatened to kill her.

And for that, he was arrested by police and charged in court.

Prosecutors alleged that on October 23, 2016, Balanag's girlfriend broke up with him during a fight while they were at a friend's house in Mong Kok. But he got angry, took out a cutter and threatened to kill her so she would not break up with him.

Apparently scared of Balanag's threat, the woman relented and did not break up with him. The defendant then calmed down, and left.

Apparently, she reported the incident to the police.

On October 29, 2016, at about 10:50

a.m., Balanag was arrested by police in Tsuen Wan.

However, at the Kowloon City Courts on November 15, the prosecution agreed to have Balanag bound over.

Deputy Magistrate Leung Lai-yin told the defendant that he was bound over for \$2,000 in two years.

"This means that you will not have a criminal conviction, and you don't have to pay the \$2,000 if you do not commit or attempt to commit any offense in the period of two years.

"But if you are found to be in breach of the bound over order, you will have to pay

\$2,000 and the punishment of the convicted offense," Judge Leung said.



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# Belenismo

By Bing R Jabadan

AS the afternoon turns into dusk and the belens illuminate the northern night skies, thousands of people flocked to Tarlac to witness the beauty and creativity of the art of making Christmas crèches.

People from all walks of life witnessed

the lighting of the 9th year Belenismo Festival organized by the Tarlac Heritage Foundation headed by Dona Isabel Cojuangco-Suntay and its Chairperson Dr. Issa Cojuangco-Suntay. "This year's theme is inspired by the history of the country whose people united behind and supported President Rodrigo R. Duterte

with his message of hope, peace, and love of country," Dr. Issa said.

More than 50 belens are on display in various parishes, communities, business offices and government agencies in Tarlac. The Armed Forces of the Philippines-Northern Luzon Command also supports the Belenismo and is hosting

AFP's entry in the festival.

"It has been our tradition in the province of Tarlac to put up Belen's as symbol of peace by conveying the message of Christ's birth to point us to our Divine Creator and communicate the importance of sharing love with one another by being compassionate enough to care for others and the country," said Lt. Gen. Romeo T. Tanalgo, AFP-NolCom commander.

Tanalgo said the AFP-NolCom was also honored to host again the AFP's entry to the Belenismo Tarlac Festival. A colorful peacock-inspired belen—symbolizing protection, guidance, and watchfulness in preserving peace—is on display outside Camp General Servillano Aquino, in Tarlac City.

For the last two consecutive years, the AFP 48th Infantry Battalion has taken the pride of winning the grand prize and General Tanalgo said that he is hopeful that this year's entry would lead to the first place for the third time. The art of making belen, through the years, made use of native materials like such as tambo, bamboo, bulo, banig, pamapaypay as well as recycled materials such as paper plates, used CDs, plastic cups, spoons, and forks. "Making the belen has demonstrated how ordinary people, using ordinary materials, can come out with something beautiful," says Rev. Fr. Jonathan Ovir, parish priest of the the Sto. Cristo Parish in Tarlac City,

a belen designer and one of the guests at the Belenismo launching.

"Beauty is not only for those with money and wealth but in the hands of people who mold and use materials to manifest their ultimate desire for beauty," the priest added.

Father Ovir says this was the aspiration of the Tarlac Heritage Foundation in embracing Belenismo, the Art of Making Belen "I am mesmerized to see how, with the use of bamboo, pamapaypay and bilao, the AFP can come up with a Disneyland-looking Belen inspired by the Sarimanok; how tambo and recycled paper plates and used CDs will showcase a colorful Belen in Burot; how bamboo materials can show us a belen in a cave full of stalactites as displayed at SM Tarlac; how recycled bottles produced a dainty belen now on display at Toyota San Miguel and other places," Father Ovir recounts.

The Belenismo has showcased the creativity of people coming up with different representations of the Christmas creche, the lowly stable which is the setting of the Nativity scene and the humble manger where Jesus Christ born. The various belen entries are on display from November 4 to January 17, 2016. A panel of distinguished judges will evaluate each belen entry according to its originality and creativity. Winners will be announced on December 9.



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# A tribute to friends

By Philip C. Tubeza

WITH prayers, songs, and dances, a group of Filipino domestic workers who are cancer survivors and their supporters paid tribute to their friends who had passed away due to the dreaded disease.

Members of the Filipino Migrants Cancer Support Society (FILMCASS-HK) and their supporters gathered along Chater Road in Central on November 13 for the Concert for Cancer Society 2016 and Cancer Awareness program.

"Para sa inyo mga kapatid na nauna na sa amin, para sa inyo ang tribute na ito. Para sa inyo ang aming mga panalangin at aming pagdiriwang sa araw na ito," said Sr. Vicky Ramos FdCC.

The group remembered in particular 11 members who succumbed to cancer---Luz Agustin, Teresa Esequie, Pinky Villaceran, Susan Magno, Malou Gatapon, Betty Remales, Angelina Pablo, Chito Mariano, Lily Aquino, Gloria Navigar, and Pacita Roads.

The tribute began with a Mass and ended with members praying and laying flowers in front of the pictures of the departed. But the celebration tribute was not a solemn affair altogether as members and supporters sang and danced in remembrance of their colleagues.

The celebration included performances by Ms. Nits Malicdem and the Music 'N Laughter Singers from Cinta-J restaurant. Members of the FILMCASS Angels, Simbayanan-KAMPPI, and Star Pinoy also performed.

Gemma Adan Solomon, the head of FILMCASS, thanked everyone who made the event possible.

"It's a good day for a lot of reasons. We became more aware and we learned that part of being aware is to celebrate. We've had our friends from Cinta-J come out and celebrate and many supporters came out over here and helped us to celebrate," said Fr. Jim Mulrone, a longtime supporter of FILMCASS.

"But we also remember the people who

we looked after. We remember their names and we pray that they may see everlasting life," he said.

We pray that their families may be comforted. And we pray that the gifts they shared with each one of us while they were here on earth will be cherished and put to very good use," he added.



Members of the Music 'N Laughter Singers from Cinta-J Restaurant and Lounge in Wan Chai provide laughs and serenade the crowd.



FILMCASS members and supporters pray for each other



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# Blacklist...

From page 1

“They’d say, ‘I’m watch-listed here so I will go to the Indonesians.’ If the employer is abusive, then he or she should be considered abusive by everyone,” Dela Torre said.

“The employer should not be able to insist (on hiring other foreign domestic workers),” he added.

Dela Torre said the initial feedback from the Indonesian consulate general was favorable.

“They’re very eager. I think they might adopt our Employ Easy system, which allows the online submission of contracts by

agencies,” he said. “So, it would be faster. If the employer is blacklisted here, she would also be blacklisted there. It will be done online and fast,” he said.

However, Dela Torre said the POLO would also have to consult with lawyers to determine how the plan could avoid violating Hong Kong’s strict privacy law, which prohibits the sharing of personal data without the consent of the person involved.

“We will consult with some solicitors just to make sure the privacy issues are resolved,” Dela Torre said. As of late July this year, the POLO had put on its watch list nearly 5,000 employers.

# OFWs in HK protest Marcos burial in LnmB

By Peter Castillo

A GROUP of Filipino workers (OFWs) here in Hong Kong held a picket outside the Philippine Consulate General on Nov. 25 to protest the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LnmB).

Eman Villanueva, Bayan-HK and Macau chair, said the picket was part of Black Friday protests held that day in the Philippines and around the world where there were large numbers of OFWs.

“OFW were part of the struggle that ended Martial Law and the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. OFWs are still part of the struggle against attempts to revise history and deodorise the Marcoses and Martial Law,” Villanueva said.

“We remember and we refuse to bow to



The protesters held a picket outside the Philippine consulate

the Marcoses’ whims of ‘moving’ and ‘forgiveness’. How to move on without justice? How to forgive if the perpetrators don’t even acknowledge their crimes?” he added.

Villanueva said President Duterte can do better than adhere to “the demands of

the Marcoses.” “He promised to be true to the Filipinos; but the Marcoses were traitors to the people. He promised to end forced migration; but it was Marcos who turned it into an industry,” Villanueva said.

“He promised to end corruption; but he’s allowing the glorification of one of the most corrupt in the world. A dictator and a plunderer can never be called hero,” he added.

Villanueva said the hardships Filipinos suffered during the Marcos regime forced “millions of our people to leave our country and work abroad.”

“The crisis led to the institutionalisation of the labor export program (LEP) that transformed many into cheap labor overseas without hope of coming home and truly having a decent life,” Villanueva said.

“The Marcos’ plundering of the country resulted to severe bankruptcy that he even tried to subvert by enforcing Executive Order (EO) 857 for all OFWs to remit money or pay penalties,” he said.

But due to the militant and sustained campaign of OFWs in Hong Kong and around the world, the Marcos government was forced to remove the penalty provisions of the EO, he added.

“We remember the numerous victims of human rights violations from extrajudicial killings to false imprisonment, torture and enforced disappearance,” he said.

But a staunch supporter of former Senator Bongbong Marcos in HK said there was no need for the Marcoses to issue an apology.

“Of course, we are thankful dahil mataagal na naman patay (si President Marcos) at at long last natapos na ang kahilingan ng kanyang pamilya para mabigyan siya ng parangal bilang Presidente,” said Anette Hope, founder and president of the Bong-Bong Marcos United Hong Kong chapter during an interview with HK News columnist Jun Concepcion over RTHK.

The group said it has 36,000 members who are fully behind the Marcoses.

“Ang gusto lang naman nila ay simpleng malibing ang kanilang ama,” Hope said.

“Kung ako ang tatanungin, bakit ako magbibigay ng deepest sorry? Hindi naman ang kanyang pamilya ang gumawa at in charge sa Martial Law,” she added.

Anti-Marcos groups were set to hold another protest action at the People Power Monument along Edsa in Quezon City on November 30.



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**Duterte wants to abolish ERC**

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has called on officials of the Energy Regulatory Commission to resign or he will abolish the agency amid reports of corruption.

Duterte made the challenge after receiving reports on the death of ERC director Francisco Villa Jr., who left suicide notes expressing his problems with the agency.

Villa's sister, journalist Charie Villa, said the notes "spelled out his pressures at the ERC; how the chairman was pressuring him to push some contracts to be approved but then he said he can't cause he'll be questioned by the Commission on Audit."

"I am demanding they all resign," the President said, citing both internal and intelligence reports indicating systemic corruption in the agency.

"They really abused the (system), just like in the past...My source was a document. Now it's

a matter of government lawyers assessing the case. They better pray," Duterte added.

ERC chairman Jose Vicente Salazar, however, said he and his colleagues, who enjoy fixed terms, have no intention of resigning.

Salazar sought a meeting with Duterte to give the President "a fuller picture of the current developments at the ERC."

Duterte, however, rejected the meeting being sought by the ERC officials, threatening instead to abolish the agency or replace it with another body.

"All these officials will have a choice: I will demand from Congress to disband the ERC or leave them without a budget, and/or file cases simultaneously," the President said.

"I have received word that the members of that body have refused to step down. I demanded that they all resign. If you refuse, that's easy: we will abolish the office," he added.

# Marcos buried at Libingan ng mga Bayani

By Maia Lopez

THE late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was buried with military honors at a heroes' cemetery in Manila almost 30 years after his death in Hawaii, triggering mass protests across the country.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who was in Peru for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, gave orders in August that the burial may proceed, fulfilling an election campaign promise.

Progressive groups filed their opposition to the burial before the Supreme Court, which in turn ruled that Marcos can be interred at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani.

"President Marcos was a president for so long and he was a soldier. So, that's about it. Whether or not he performed worse or better, there is no study, there is no movie about it. It's just the challenges and allegations of the other side which is not enough," the President said.

"I was just being legally strict about it,"



Marcos family

Duterte added.

Former Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. called for unity following intense protests over his father burial at LNMB.

"Let my father's burial be the first day amongst many days of our continuing to work for the unity and the progress of our country," he said on Twitter.

His eldest sister, Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos, thanked Duterte for allowing her

father, a former soldier and guerrilla leader during World War Two, to be laid to rest with soldiers.

Vice President Leni Robredo, for her part, likened the secret burial to "a thief in the night."

"This is nothing new to the Marcoses - they who had hidden wealth, hidden human rights abuses and now hidden burial - with complete disrespect for the rule of law," said Robredo.

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### De Lima ex-lover claims she received drug money

**RONNIE Dayan**, the former bodyguard and lover of Senator Leila de Lima, has corroborated the claim of suspected drug lord Kerwin Espinosa that the former Justice secretary received drug money to bankroll her senatorial campaign.

Espinosa, who admitted operating his drug business in Leyte and other parts of the Visayas, testified before the Senate that he gave P8 million in drug money to De Lima.

Dayan, on the other hand, admitted receiving money from Espinosa in a separate hearing at the House of Representatives.

**"I had collected money from Kerwin Espinosa for Secretary De Lima, about five times. The money that was handed to me was secured in a small paper bag. I did not bother to count it and Kerwin did not even tell [me] the amount,"** Dayan said.

Dayan said Espinosa handed him money for De Lima at least five times in 2014: once in August, once in October, and three times in November. Certain details in Dayan's testimony, however, did not fit the story told by Espinosa during the Senate hearing.

Espinosa alleged that he met De Lima at Burnham Park in Baguio City in November 2015, where he handed money for the third time - contradicting Dayan's claim that the transactions ended in November 2014.

After the introduction, Espinosa said he and his wife had their photos taken with De Lima. "We shook hands and I whispered to her that the money is with Dayan. Ma'am Leila nodded her head and said thank you," Espinosa said. De Lima herself cited the inconsistencies in the statements of all the witnesses at the House inquiry.

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# Congress to extend passport validity

By Maia Lopez

A technical working group of Congress has finished consolidating 22 bills, all seeking to lengthen the validity of Philippine passports to 10 years for adults and five years for minors.

The TWG, chaired by Deputy Speaker and Pampanga Second District Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, approved pro-

posals to amend Republic Act 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine Passport Law," by prolonging to five years the validity of passports of minors, aged zero to 17 years old. For passports of adults, or those 18 years old and above, the validity shall be 10 years.

Arroyo said it is not the intention of the

authors of the bills to introduce any other amendment to the existing law, but only to lengthen the passport's validity.

The former chief executive said the present five-year passport validity is rather too short given the tedious process and cost it requires to obtain or renew one.

With the amendment approved by the

TWG, the provision of the law shall read:

"SECTION 10. Validity. Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of five (5) years for minors, ages zero to seventeen (0-17) years old and ten (10) years for adults eighteen (18) years old and above: Provided, however, That the issuing authority may limit the

period of validity to less than ten (10) years; whenever in the national economic interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary: Provided, finally, That a new passport may be issued to replace one which validity has expired, the old passport being returned to the holder after cancellation."

## House moves to create DOFW

By Maia Lopez

THE House committees on government reorganization and on overseas workers affairs have created a technical working group (TWG) that will consolidate six bills seeking to create a Department for Overseas Filipino Workers (DOFW).

In a joint hearing, the committees on government reorganization represented by its vice chairman Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson (Party-list, Manila Teachers) and the committee on overseas workers affairs led by its chairman Rep. Mariano Michael M. Velarde, Jr. (Party-list, Buhay) approved the motion of to create the TWG.

The panels named Rep. Aniceto "John" III D. Bertiz III (Party-list ACTS OFW) the TWG head, with Lacson, Reps. Ron P. Salo (Party-list, Kabayan) and Mark Aeron H. Sambar (Party-list, PBA) as members.

Pangasinan Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas, author of one of the bills, said it was time to create the DOFW that will take full charge of the deployment and repatriation of OFWs, when the need arises.

"There should be one agency which will be made accountable to the OFWs and their families," said Arenas.

Based on the December 2013 report of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Arenas said there are 10 million Filipinos residing overseas.

"There is an urgent need for a single agency that can provide a comprehensive and consolidated approach to protect their rights and interests," said Arenas.

Arenas also cited a Bangko Sentral report showing that OFWs' remittances in 2015 alone hit more than P1-trillion, or one-third of the total budget for 2016.

"This has spared the country's economy time and again from the harsh global economic meltdown experienced in recent years," she said.



House of Representatives

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naman ay Fourth-generation kaya naman naging mas mabilis pa ito. Kailangan din na 4G supported ang phones para ma-enjoy ang 4G network. Kung hindi 4G ang phone at gamit mo ay 4G na SIM, nasa 3G network lang ang iyong magagamit. Ang isa pang bago sa Barkadahan SIM ay ang pagiging "Flexi-switch".

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ang dating 3G data plan na \$98 a month, press mo lang \*111\*3282# CALL. Pwede mo palitan ang data plan packages mo kahit anong oras kaya very flexible at very easy mag-switch. Ang 3G data plan ay unlimited habang ang \$108 4G data plan ay may fair usage policy na kapag ang monthly data usage umabot na sa FUP fair usage level na 10GB, data service ay magtutuloy nang walang speed throttling o data capping. Ang access sa network resources ay bibigyan ng lower priority at ang

data service experience ay baka maapektuhan. Magiging 512kbps din ang speed kapag lumampas na ng 10GB. Kapag gusto mo magpalit ng data plan, press mo lang mga codes na pang unsubscribe. Ang mga kompletong detalye nito ay makikita sa aming Barkadahan leaflets o di kaya silipin ang aming Barkadahan sa SmarTone Facebook page. Kaya ano pang hinihintay mo! Mag-subscribe na sa \$108 4G data plan para mas masaya ang internet at love life mo, NOW NA! Iba ka talaga kapag Barkadahan ang gamit mo. Barkadahan, For the OFW and With the OFW!



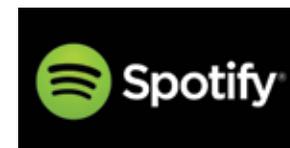
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Ang Barkadahan load ay pwede ng pang bayad sa Google play store. Basta may load ang inyong Barkadahan SIM, madali lang magbayad. Simple lang ang gagawin. Kapag nakita mong may kailangan bayaran sa app na ginagamit mo, press mo lang ang "Amount" at i-click ang "Accept", "Continue" at piliin ang "Enable SmarTone HK

Billing". Ang sunod ay kailangan ipasok ang inyong personal na information para sa google account gaya ng Mobile number, Name at Address. Huwag kalimutang i-click ang "Save" at "Accept". Meron kayong matatanggap na SMS nagsasabing nakapag-register na pagkatapos nito. Sundin lang ang mga susunod sa screen ng app gaya ng "Save" kung

saan sang ayon ka sa Terms And Conditions ng Play store. Kailangan mong ipasok ang google password mo at i-click ang "Confirm" para makapagbayad na. Ang registration na inyong ginawa ay para sa una lamang. Ang sunod na pagbayad ay mas mabilis na lang. Kada successful na pagbayad ay tatanggap ka ng SMS na naibawas na sa inyong load ang binayad

mo sa Play store. Talagang bongga ang maging Barkadahan dahil ang daming mga benefits na gaya nito. Pwede na kayong mag subscribe sa mga popular apps gaya ng Smule karaoke, Spotify o JOOX para sa mga music, Viber or LINE icons at marami pang iba. Iba talaga kapag Barkadahan ka. Barkadahan, For the OFW and With the OFW!



#### How to pay on Google Play Store



## As We See it

## No hero

IT boggles our mind that 30 years after Ferdinand Marcos, his family, and their ilk fled the country during the Edsa People Power Revolution, he was buried in the sacred grounds of the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

We note that President Duterte, in defending his action to allow Marcos's burial in LNMB, has suddenly turned legalistic and invoked the Christian teaching of forgiveness so the Philippines could finally move on.

It was disconcerting, to say at the very least, to hear Duterte cite legal and Christian principles in paving the way for Marcos's burial, when he had been ignoring these same principles in his relentless war

against illegal drugs in the Philippines.

Isn't this the same person who said that drug suspects must be immediately executed and fed to the fish in the Pasig River? How is it then that he is able to say that Filipinos must forgive Marcos when the strongman and his family plundered the national coffers and were the head of the government at a time when thousands of Filipinos were subjected to human rights abuses?

We join the many Filipinos in the Philippines and all over the world in expressing our indignation and outrage over the mockery of the country's heroes by having one of the world's most corrupt dictators buried in the same ground.



## Equal Opportunities Commission

## Indecent Assault

Recently, the Hong Kong News reported a rape case for which a former domestic helper who will return Hong Kong to testify against her previous employer.

Under the Hong Kong law, indecent assault is an assault with elements of indecency such as indecent touching or physical contact without consent while rape is the most serious of sexual offences. These are criminal cases. One should report such incidents to the police.

Besides, the anti-discrimination legislation also covers sexual harassment under the SDO, referring to unwanted sexual attention. There are two forms of sexual harassment under the law:

(1) Any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature in circumstances in which a reasonable person would have anticipated that you would feel offended, humiliated or intimidated.

Examples: touching, comments of sexual nature, making sexual noises or gestures, asking to touch someone, or asking someone for sex.

(2) A sexually hostile working environment is where there are actions, languages or pictures of a sexual nature that make the environment hostile.

Examples: A household member watch-

ing pornography in the house or while you are working, or undressing in front of you, which makes you feel intimidated.

Coverage of SDO against sexual harassment is not limited to physical contact, as defined in indecent assault. Verbal comment and sexually hostile working environment are also considered unlawful. Victims can lodge a complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) for redress, in addition to reporting to police. The SDO also prohibits anyone residing in a premise to sexually harass a domestic worker who resides in the same premises. Therefore, the law protects domestic workers from sexual harassment from any family members residing in the premises, not just the employer.

In order to protect you from sexual harassment, we encourage domestic workers to be assertive and not hesitate from telling the harasser to stop. We would also like to remind you to make a record of the incident(s), including details such as the date, time and location; include what the person said and did to you and who was present during the incident; and keep a copy of these notes in a safe place and do not hesitate to lodge a complaint or take legal action.



## Currents

Norman Uy  
Carnay

## Gunitain ang IDEVAW

NGAYONG Nobyembre 25 ay ipinagdiwang ang International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women o IDEVAW. Dahil mahigit sa 98% ng mga migrante sa Hong Kong ay babae, lalong nagiging makabuluhan na maunawaan ng lahat ang halaga nito.

Alam niyo ba na ang taunang paggunita ng IDEVAW ay nagmula sa isang mapait na karanasan ng karahasan na sinapit ng tintawag na Mirabal sisters?

Noong 1960, ang magkakapatid na sina Patria Mercedes, Maria Argentina Minerva, at Antonia Maria Teresa – ang Mirabal sisters - ay pinaslang matapos gahasain ng mga tropang militar sa utos ng diktador na si General Rafael Trujillo ng Dominican Republic.

Bago nito, sila ay magiting na namuno sa Las Mariposas at June 14th Movement na kilusan ng mga kababaihang hayag at palihim na lumaban sa tatlong dekadang diktadurya ni Trujillo. Kasama nila ang

kanilang mga asawa na kasapi naman ng maka-Kaliwang underground.

Mahaba ang paglaban ng mamamayan ng Dominican Republic laban sa diktador. Ang diktador naman sa pamamagitan ng kanyang mga secret police at military ay pumatay ng mahigit 50,000 at nagkulong at nag-tortur ng libu-libo pa. Ang Mirabal sisters ay naging simbolo ng kahayupan ng diktadurya at ang paglaban ng mamamayan rito.

Kinilalang mga martir ang magkakapatid sa Dominican Republic. Naging inspirasyon sila sa mga kilusan ng kababaihan. Naitalak nila ang UN na ideklara ang Nobyembre 25 bilang IDEVAW.

Sa Pilipinas naman, naipasa ang batas RA10398 na panukala at naipasa ng Gabriela Women's Party bilang batas noong Marso 2013. Dineklara nito na ang Nobyembre 25 bilang National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of VAWC (kasama ang bata).

Kaya't masasabing mahalaga ang taunang komemorasyon ng IDEVAW dahil hindi pa rin naman napapawi ang iba't ibang porma ng karahasan na umaatake lalo na sa kababaihan – ang kahirapan, kawalan ng lupa, kawalan ng disen-teng trabaho at nakakabuhay na sweldo, ang pagkakait ng social services lalo na edukasyon at kalusugan, matinding korupsiyon, kawalan ng hustisya.

Dahil sa mga problemang ito ay lalong nailalapat sa abuso, disgrasya at bulnerabilidad ang mga babae sa ating lipunan. Nakakabahala nga ang datos ng rape, bullying at sexual violence sa ating bansa.

Ang paglaban sa VAW ay paglaban sa anumang porma ng diktadurya, ng karahasan, ng pang-aalipin, pagsasamantala at ng paghahamak sa kababaihan. Ito ang hindi dapat kalimutan.

Dahil tuloy pa ang laban para makamtan talaga ang tunay na paglaya ng kababaihan sa ating lipunan.

## Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,  
Magandang araw sa inyo!

Itong mga panahong ito, nakakatuwa na maging isang OFW dito sa Hong Kong.

Dangan kasi ay patuloy na tumataas ang palitan ng piso at Hong Kong dollar, kaya mas malaki ang halagang naipadadala namin ngayon sa among mga mahal sa buhay sa Pilipinas.

Pero higit sa pagpapadala ng pera, ang sarap ding mag-apon sa mga ganitong panahon.

Dapat samantalain ng mga kababayan natin

dito sa Hong Kong na maganda ang palitan at upang madagdagan ang mga iniimpok nilang salapi at nang sa gayon ay mas magiging mabilis ang pag-uwi namin sa Pilipinas at makasama na namin ang aming mga mahal sa buhay sa ating bayan.

Dapat maging matalino sa mga araw na ito at paparating pa upang hindi masayang ang pagkakataon na maganda ang palitan ngayon.

Gumagalang,  
Riza T.

## ERRATUM:

In the November-mid edition, our headline stated that a former restaurant worker stole "\$37K" from a restaurant he previously worked for. The correct amount was \$31,700. We regret the error.

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# Qatar grants amnesty to illegal OFWs

By Maia Lopez

FINALLY after 12 years, Qatar granted amnesty to illegal residents, allowing them to leave the country without facing any legal consequences.

Labor Attaché David Des Dicang said Qatar's Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced the amnesty, which ran from September until this month.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello welcomed the ministry's decision and urged OFWs who were staying illegally in Qatar to take advantage of the amnesty.

"I welcome this piece of good news for our overstaying OFWs of a still undetermined number as it gives them the opportunity to finally go home to their families

in the Philippines, and allow them to start new lives," Bello said.

"With this opportunity, I strongly urge Filipinos illegally staying in Qatar to avail of this amnesty and go home to the Philippines to avoid the repercussion of their being declared as illegal foreigners in Qatar," he added.

The said amnesty covers all foreigners residing in the country who have violated Law No. 4 of 2009, which regulates the entry, exit, residence and sponsorship of expatriates.

"Those who want to avail of the program shall contact the Search and Follow up Department of Qatar to complete the

exit procedures within the covered period," Dicang explained in his report.

He also said that based on reports the POLO has received, the last amnesty was offered in 2004, but it was given an additional one month extension by the Qatari government due to the big number of avalees at that time.

## Dubai to import PH organic rice

By Maia Lopez

THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Dubai has launched an agricultural business program that will encourage overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to become entrepreneurs and eventually provide employment in hometowns and communities.

Labor Attaché Ofelia Domingo said the program, dubbed "Dubai Entrepinoy Reintegration Program," will provide a doorway for economic and social reintegration for OFWs in Dubai and Northern Emirates, and will reduce the social costs of migration as it endeavors to assist returning OFWs and their families.

"The program also seeks to develop, implement, and evolve progressive and responsive reintegration programs for OFWs and their families that are attuned to their communities' needs, and maximize the benefits of migration for the development of the country," said Domingo.

The POLO-Dubai will implement the program in collaboration with the Philippine Consulate General Dubai and Northern Emirates, Filipino Human Resources Practitioners' Association, Don Bosco Multipurpose Cooperative and the municipality of Mlang, North Cotabato.

Domingo said that the program will involve the production of organic rice, which will come from the municipality of Mlang, North Cotabato, identified as one of the poorest provinces in the Philippines, and will be distributed in the UAE, through DBMC.

The DBMC owns 159 hectares of rice land planted with internationally certified organic and halal rice in Mlang, where the household service workers will be given slots. Prior to the launch, Romano Laurilla, general manager of DBMC, has conducted a briefing for the technical working group.

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Dubai

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24/7 CCTV security. BM Express has launched its newest office right at the center of Hong Kong to cater to our modern heroes to help them send their love and support, and make

them feel connected to their loved ones especially in this yuletide season. Staying true to its promise of connecting people, BM Express has been consistently competitive in the courier business to ensure overall quality service, bridging the distance between Filipinos and their relatives back home in the Philippines.

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## PhilHealth holds 3rd outreach program

THE Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) conducted its 3rd Outreach Service Mission for 2016 in Hong Kong from November 11 to 13.

Headed by Mr. Ramon F. Aristoza, Jr., Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, a PhilHealth team flew into the former Crown colony and provided basic services to overseas Filipino workers.

The services provided included information dissemination, registration of new members, updating of member information, and issuance of Member Data Records and Philhealth identification cards.

During the three-day outreach mission, the team put up temporary stations at Philippine-based banks and remittance centers located at the World Wide House in Central, and at the premises of the Philippine Consulate General (PCG) and Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Admiralty.



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# Pasaway na recruiters

## Haplos at Bigwas



## Ni Jun Concepcion

LABAN sa Emry's at Ibang Recruiters na Pasaway

Nanalo sa Small Claims Tribunal ang ilang OFWs na nabiktima ng Emry's Employment Agency -- sa tulong ng POLO at iba pa.

Pero sapat na ba ang court victory para mabawi ng mahigit 200 victims and average ng HK\$10,000 na ibinayad ng bawat isa sa Emry's para sa mga trabaho sa UK, Canada at ibang lugar na gawa gawa lang pala?

Ang sagot ay HINDI!

Ang panalo sa korte sa Hong Kong o kahit saan mang lugar ay bale wala kung

hindi naman ito maipapatupad.

Kung hindi mababawi ng mga biktima ang perang naibigay nila sa Emry's ay halos bale wala ang kahit anong court victory na makukuha nila.

Paano mapagbabayad ang mga recruiters na nanloko? Paulit ulit silang singilin ng utang nila sa Facebook para malaman ng mga OFW na meroon silang perang kinuha sa sambayanan. Kung ang illegal recruiter ay miyembro ng isang religious group o association ay pwede ring humingi ng tulong sa mga leaders nila para magbayad ang recruiter.

Sa bandang huli, maiwawasan na maloko ng mga illegal recruiters kung hindi pangakong mataas na kita lang titingnan. Unang dapat aralin kung tutoo o may kaduda duda sa mga pangako ng isang recruiter.

### Exploiting OFW Ignorance

Many OFWs are pressured into paying unpaid loans of their friends or relatives here in Hong Kong even if they are not

co-borrowers.

Even if these OFWs acted merely as referees or references, they are pressured to pay unpaid loans of their friends by certain dishonest finance companies.

Their ignorance of Hong Kong law is often exploited.

OFWs should wise up. If they help friends get loans as referees or references, they are UNDER NO OBLIGATION UNDER HONG KONG LAW to pay the unpaid loans of borrowers. Referees or references should not sign any document that will make them borrowers.

If referees or references are pressured to pay unpaid loans of friends, they can file complaints with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority against finance companies pressing them for payments. OFW threats of filing complaints should scare off dishonest finance firms.

\* Samot sari . . . Makinig every Sunday 4-6pm sa "Pinoy Life" radio show sa Radio Television Hong Kong Radio 3

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# Mental, emotional preparedness for return home

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

BESIDES financial preparation, Filipinos planning to go home for good should also prepare themselves emotionally.

In the last "Money Wise Public Forum" for the year of NGO Enrich Hong Kong at the Philippine Consulate General, participants were reminded that returning home to the Philippines for good would also mean emotional and mental adjustment on their part.

Lenlen Mesina, Enrich executive director, told the more than 10 forum participants that there were many cases that OFWs who returned home found that they and their family members had changed during their time apart.

"Madaming nangyayari na pag-uwi sa Pilipinas ng OFW, sasabihin ng anak niya o pamilya niya na 'ma, mabuti pa noong nasa abroad ka, tahimik kami ni papa, ok naman kami'," Mesina said.

She added that in the Philippines, Filipinos who came from overseas would have to adjust to slower internet connection, and long travel time or less efficient transportation system, among others.

While away from their family, OFWs should remember to communicate regularly and well with their family back home.

"It must go beyond 'yung usual na usapan. You should find ways para hindi malayo ang loob ninyo sa kanila. Hindi masamang maging matapat sa pamilya,'" Mesina said.



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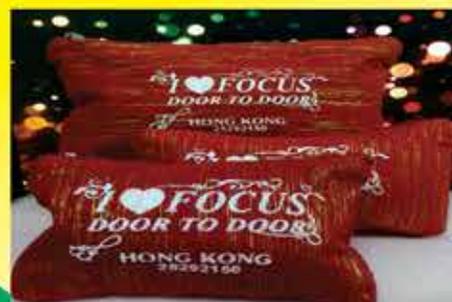
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# US court: Babae na si BB Gandanghari

By Cristy Kasilag

ANG dating lalaki, ay kinikilala na ngayong babae.

Hindi lang kasarian ang pinabago ni BB Gandanghari dahil ngayon ang kanyang pangalan na Rustom Padilla ay legal na

rin niyang pinalitan.

Matapos ang ilang buwan na paglaban, natamo kamakailan ni BB Gandanghari ang pagkilala sa kanya ng Superior Court ng California sa Estados Unidos bilang isang babae.

Lubos ang pasasalamat ng 49-anyos na

Filipino actress at modelo sa sa pagkilala sa kanyang karapatang pangtao at pagpayag na baguhin ang kanyang pangalan at kasarian.

"This is it! And I thought that this day would never come. And I thank my GOD and my LORD for making these things

happen. Everything makes sense now," sabi ni BB.

"And to this great country---the United States of America---for providing this basic human right... Thank you!" aniya.

Matatandaan na nuon lamang buwan ng Agosto nang nagtungo si BB sa korte sa Estados Unidos at nag file ng isang petisyon. At dahil mabilis ang naging proseso, nakamit niya ang kanyang hiling matapos lamang nang tatlong buwan na pag hihintay.

Nung Agosto ay ipinakita pa nga niya, sa pamamagitan nang kanyang Instagram account, ang petisyon na kanyang inihain at may kalakip na caption na, "Change is coming... BIG TIME!!!"

Bago siya naging transgender ay isang lalaki at aktor itong si Rustom. Nagkaroon ng kasintahan at ikinasal pa nga siya sa aktres na si Carmina Villaroel.

Pero hindi naging madali kay BB ang kanyang pag-amin. Dinamdang niya na nuong simula ay hindi naging buo ang pagsuporta ng kanyang pamilya niya sa kanyang desisyon. Isa na rito ang kanyang nakababatang kapatid na si Robin Padilla.

Nagkaayos lamang sila nung nagkasakit nang urinary tract infection si BB na nag-



BB

dulot ng grabeng dehydration na muntik nang makasira ng kanyang kidney at bladder. Naospital siya dahil dito ng limang araw.

Namagitan ang kanilang ina na si Eva Carino. Inutos niya sa mga kapatid ni BB na dalawin siya sa ospital. At nung nagising si BB, nakita niya si Robin sa kanyang tabi.

Labis ang kanyang tuwa nung sinabihan ni Robin ang anak nitong si Ali na, "Mula ngayon, Aunt BB na itawag mo sa kanya, ha!"

## Ang 2 grasya ni Robin

By Cristy Kasilag

TILA biniyayaan si Robinhood "Robin" Padilla ng panibagong buhay at hindi lang ng isang beses.

Nung Nobyembre 14 sa Delaware, United States ipinanganak ni Mariel Rodriguez-Padilla ang panganay na anak nila ni Robin. Babae ang sanggol na pinangalanan nilang Isabella.

Kahit na ilang beses nakunan si Mariel nuong mga nakalipas na taon ay naitawid niya ngayon ang siyam na buwan na pagbubuntis para mailabas via normal delivery ang anak nila ni Robin.

Wala man sa tabi ni Mariel ang kanyang asawa, napanuod naman ng aktor ang mga pangyayari sa pamamagitan ng video call simula ng maglabor si Mariel

Hindi nakasama ni Mariel ang 46-anyos na si Robin dahil hindi pa nakukuha ulit ng aktor ang lahat ng kanyang mga karapatang sibil, tulad ang karapatang bumiyahab abroad at magkaroon ng passport.

Ito ay dahil sa kanyang conviction sa kasong illegal possession of firearms nuong 1994.

Pero kinabukasan, tila isang nakakagulat at masayang regalo ang binigay ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte kay Robin, na kilalang isa sa mga lubos na sumuporta sa kanya nuong panahon ng eleksyon.

Nung Nobyembre 15 ay nagtungo si Robin sa Malacanang para lang sana makipagkita sa Presidente. Laking gulat niya nung ibinigay sa kanya ang nakahanda ng "absolute pardon" para sa ginawa niyang kasalanan.

Dahil ditto, ibabalik na kay Robin ang civil and political rights niya tulad ng pagboto, pagtakbo para sa isang posisyon sa gobyerno, at karapatang makabyahab sa labas ng bansa at magkaroon ng Philippine passport.

Si Pangulong Duterte mismo ang nagpahayag ng balita sa mga myembro ng media nung sila ay magdinner kamakailan.



MARIEL at ROBIN

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## Horoscope

**Capricorn** December 22 to January 19  
Swerte ang pasok ng buwang ito sa iyo. Maituturing mo ang buwan na ito na panahon ng pag-ani dahil isang taon kang nagtrabaho ng maayos at nag-sakripisyo para sa pamilya.

**Aquarius** January 20 to February 18  
Maging matapang ka dahil maaaring subukin ang iyong lakas sa pagharap sa mga problema. Huwag kalimutang dumulog sa Panginoon at kumuha ng suporta sa mga taong nagmamahal sa iyo.

**Pisces** February 19 to March 20  
Hindi lahat ay alam mo at kaya mong gawin kaya magpakumbaba at matutong makinig sa opinyon ng iba. Hindi mo lang alam pero maraming nakapapansin ng iyong pag-uugali.

**Aries** March 21 to April 19  
Alisin na sa isip ang mga alinlangan sa pag-ibig. Pinili ka ng iyong kasintahan dahil may nakita siya iyo na hindi niya nakita sa iba.

**Taurus** April 20 to May 20  
Ipagtapat na sa kaibigan ang iyong matagal nang itinatagong sikreto. Hindi mo siya kaaway, at lalong hindi ka niya tatalikuran. Tandaang siya rin ang sumalo sa iyo nang ikaw ang nangailangan.

**Gemini** May 21 to June 20  
May darating na tao sa iyong buhay na makakapagpabago ng maraming pananaw mo sa buhay. Bigyan siya ng pansin at malay mo, siya na ang maging siya na ang hinihintay mong maging kapareha

**Cancer** June 21 to July 22  
Matagal mo nang kilala ang isang kaibigan pero ikagugulat mo pa rin ang lihim na ibubunyag niya sa iyo. Subukang buksan ang isip at intindihin siya. Ngayong pagtatapos ng taon ay makakamit mo ang isa sa iyong mga pangarap.

**Leo** July 23 to August 22  
Pag-ibayuhin ang pag-iingat dahil uso ngayon ang mga sakit. Kung dati-rati ay madalas kang kumain ng bawal, bawasan na ito dahil hindi ka na bumabata. Kakailanganin mo rin ang iyong lakas para sa paghahanap-buhay.

**Virgo** August 23 to September 22  
Maaari kang mangailangan ng tulong mula sa iyong mga kaibigan, kaya't maghanda. Maging handa ring ibalik ang tulong na ibibigay sa iyo ng mga kaibigan mo.

**Libra** September 23 to October 22  
Ilagay sa tama ang iyong pagseselos dahil hindi lahat ng pagkakataon ay tama ang iyong hinala. Hindi makakatulong sa inyong relasyon ang kawalan mo ng tiwala sa iyong kapareha.

**Scorpio** October 23 to November 21  
Hindi mo man gusto ay maaari mong makaharap ang isang taong matagal mo nang iniwasan sa isang pagkakataon. Marahil panahon na upang kalimutan ang nakaraan at magpatawad.

**Sagittarius** November 22 to December 21  
Huwag basta magalit kung may marinig na masama tungkol sa iyo. Bago magbintang, humanap muna ng ebidensya. Kung mapatunayan, kausapin siya at subukang ayusin ang isyu.

## What's Cooking?

The cool breeze, the glittering decor, and the sudden urge to buy gifts—these are tell-tale signs that Christmas is right in just around the corner! What better way to celebrate the season of love by preparing a lovely meal for our family and friends. Try our **Pork Spaghetti with Bell Pepper** for a truly unforgettable celebration with your loved ones. Happy cooking!

**Ingredients:**  
1/3 cup parmesan cheese (fresh and shredded)  
Salt & pepper to taste  
¼ kg pork strips  
1 clove garlic minced  
3 colored bell peppers, sliced  
1 pound thin spaghetti  
½ cup olive oil  
½ cup pork broth

**Directions:**  
1. Sauté garlic with oil and then mix with pork strips. Add the three colored bell peppers.  
2. Meanwhile, cook the spaghetti in boiling salted water following the package directions. Drain the pasta thoroughly.  
3. Pour pork broth and the pasta mix until well-blended.  
4. Serve with parmesan cheese.  
For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre M/F Cockloft, Wing Tat Commercial Building #97 Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan. For enquiries, please call at 28507714 or 28507724



By Chef Jay Dator



Misis: Hudad ka! Lagi kang umuuwing lasing! Naaasar na tuloy ako sa mukha mo!  
Mister: Pero mahal, kung hindi ako lasing, ako naman ang maaasar sa mukha mo!

Juan: Knock knock!  
Pedro: Who's there?  
Juan: Lasengga!  
Pedro: Lasengga who?  
Juan: All lasengga ladies! All lasengga ladies. Put your hands up...

Kapag may spaghetti  
Italyano: Oh that's my favorite!  
Amerikano: Dinner time!

Filipino: Sino ang may birthday?

Juan: Uy, alam mo ba crush ako ni Maria?  
Pedro: Talaga? Paano mo nasabi?  
Juan: Sabi niya kasi hot daw ako parang sili!  
Pedro: Woah! Paano niya sinabi?  
Juan: Sabi niya sa akin na 'You're so silly'.

Noon...  
Anak: 'Nay gusto ko na pong mabuntis.  
Nanay: Aba, hindi pwede anak.  
Kailangang mag-asawa ka muna bago mabuntis.  
Ngayon...  
Anak: 'Nay, gusto ko na po mag-asawa  
Nanay: Bakit...buntis ka na ba?

Pulis: Ikaw ba ang nagnakaw ng mga alahas, kagamitan, pera, laruan at etcetera?  
Kulas: Inaamin ko na po na ako ang nagnakaw ng mga alahas, kagamitan, pera at laruan. Pero hindi ako ang kumuha ng etcetera!

Bakit ang mga Pinoy hindi tama ang sagot kahit maayos naman ang tanong? Ito ang mga halimbawa:

Tanong: Kumain ka na?  
Sagot: Busog pa ako!  
Tanong: Nandyan ba nanay mo?  
Sagot: Bakit po?  
Tanong: Anong oras na?  
Sagot: Maaga pa.  
Tanong: Paano mo ginawa iyan?  
Sagot: Madali lang!  
Tanong: Bakit wala ka kahapon?  
Sagot: Absent ako.  
Tanong: Saan ka na?  
Sagot: Malapit na ako. Wait lang!

May mga bisitang Pilipino ang isang Amerikano at si Pedro ang nagta-translate:

Amerikano: Eat all you can! Don't be shy, feel at home. Pedro, please translate.  
Pedro: Kain lang kayo ng kain, mga walang hiya, kala ninyo bahay ninyo ito!

## Crossword Puzzle

### PAHALANG

- Ilagay sa bingwit
- Ngiting pilyo
- Naninikil
- Uling; Ingles
- Saha
- Tatak ng relo
- Itago
- Sopas
- Namalas
- Pantukoy
- Ati - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_3; palayaw ni Robin
- Tagapag-alaga ng mga bata
- Ka-partner ng kanin
- Isabog
- Ms. Gordon ng Olongapo
- Kaklaruhin
- Lugar sa Japan
- Palayaw ni Rosanna

### PABABA

- American Indians sa Peru
- Pangalan ng lalaki
- Lugar sa Cavite
- Kagyat
- Apelyidong Intsik
- Ngawit
- Amoy ng isdang di sariwa
- Ibura
- Meron ang alimango
- Iwasto
- Ipinangilin
- Aba
- Bahay-ampunan
- Tiis
- Ibistay
- Gawa pag tulog
- Hindi ngayon
- Iluto sa tubig
- Sa atin
- Palayaw ni Rommel

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15						16				
17						18				
					19					
20	21	22	23				24	25	26	27
28							29			
30							31			
32							33			
34							35			

### Answer to last puzzle

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

33 Hindi 'yes'



*Kaagapay sa Tagumpay!*

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<b>Shatin</b>	Unit 1709, Tower 2, Grand Central Plaza, 138 Shatin Rural Committee Road	3628 5080
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