

HONG KONG NEWS

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Balikbayan boxes will be tax exempt



MERRY CHRISTMAS! Hong Kong gets more colorful this time of the year with a myriad of glitz holiday decorations and attractions. Above is a picture of part of the Christmas installation set up by French artist Eric Giraat at the Landmark shopping mall in Central. (Philip C. Tubeza)

By Maia Lopez

MANILA---Starting Christmas Day, all balikbayan boxes containing valuables worth up to P150,000 will be exempted

from duties and taxes, Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon said.

Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance officials have signed Customs Administrative Order 05, which paves the

way for the tax exemption that will take effect on December 25.

The AO is aligned with the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, which raised the tax exemption on consumer

goods sent home by OFWs from only P10,000 to P150,000.

The balikbayan boxes, however, should

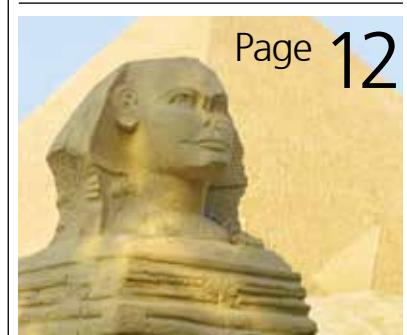
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Filipino domestic worker Myrna Ramos seeks justice for her son, the victim of an extra-judicial killing in Bulacan.



The POLO and the Indonesian consulate agree to work together for standardized working hours for FDHs.



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FDH seeks justice for murdered son

By Philip C. Tubeza

"Marami siyang tama. Tinadtad talaga nila."

A 68-year-old Filipino domestic worker in Mong Kok is seeking justice for her son who was killed in Bulacan in another suspected case of extra-judicial killing (EJK).

Myrna Ramos, of Tiaong, Bulacan, attended a protest against EJKs in Central on December 11 to seek justice for her son Emerson, 41, and call for an end to the killings that have left more than 5,800 dead in the Philippines.

The protest, which included a can-

dle-lighting ceremony, was also held to mark international Human Rights Day on December 10.

"Anong gagawin ko? Alam kong mga pulis ang pumatay. Anong hahabulin ko? Papatayin din lahat kami--mga kapatid at kapitbahay ko. Walang laban," said Ramos, her voice choking with emotion.

"Asan ang katarungan para sa anak ko? Pinatay nila," she added.

Ramos had been working in Hong Kong since 1991 to build a better life for her family but, on August 27, tragedy struck.

"Naririto ako nun (sa Hong Kong). May tumawag na lang (at sinabing) binaril ang

anak ko. Hindi masasabi na drug addict ang anak ko kaya ang sama ng loob ko," she said.

"Walang kwenta ang gobyerno. Hindi yan change is coming. Daming patay araw-araw. Yan ba ang change is coming?" she added.

Ramos said her son was selling mami (noodles) along a highway in Tiaong when four men shot him dead at around 5 p.m.

"May dumaan at napansin na may apat na lalaki na bumibili sa kanya. Narinig na lang nila binabaril. Nag-alisan na lang sila sa takot na baka sila rin (barilin)," Ramos said.

"Marami siyang tama. Tinadtad talaga nila. Apat na malalaking lalaki ang bumaril sa anak ko. Naiwan pa nga yung apat na lalagan ng mami," she added.

The killers left behind Emerson's cellular phone and his earnings of around P1,000.

Ramos said her son, who was married, had no criminal record and was neither a drug pusher nor a drug user.

"Wala siyang record. God knows. Kaya hindi namin matanggap na drug addict o ano kasi walang makakapagsabi na nag-drugdrugs siya. Hindi namin matanggap. Bakit ganun? Ang kuro-kuro baka nag-pupusher. E bakit wala siyang pera?" she said.

"Ang ilaw at tubig ng bahay, ako pa rin ang nagbabayad. Sapat lang yung kinikita niya sa mami para sa kanilang pagkain," she added.

Ramos said she talked to Emerson before he was killed and he told her that the police were conducting Oplan Tokhang (the government's campaign against illegal drugs) in their community.

"Sabi ko, 'Anong balita dyan?' (Ang

sabi niya,) 'Mga adik, tinotokhang nga sa barangay.' E ikaw ba? (Sabi niya,) 'E hindi naman ako adik. Bat ako makikitokhang?'" Ramos said.

"Meron daw pumunta sa bahay kasi bat-wat bahay kinakatok daw. Nang sinabi ko, 'Baka ikaw' Adik din?', nagalit sa akin kaya alam ko hindi (siya adik). Alam ko hindi," she said.

"Yung kinikita niya sa mami para lang sa kanila..sa katulong. Sabi rin ng asawa, wala. Ngayon wala ng taong bahay sa amin. Umalis na sila kasi natatakot din yung asawa baka raw siya rin ay patay-in kaya pinawi ko na lang sa kanila," Ramos added.

She said they were reluctant to seek the help of the police because they believe it was the police who killed her son.

"Wala kaming mahingan ng tulong sa takot. Kahit nga yung pera na benta na P1,000 hindi na binalik ng mga pulis," Ramos said.

Kinuha yung lalagan ng pera at saka cellphone. Baka daw matrace nila kung ano tapos wala namang matrace," she said.

"Bakit kami magrereklamo e alam naming pulis din ang pumatay?" she added.

Ramos said that she was glad when she found out that there were groups of Filipinos in Hong Kong who were protesting against EJKs.

"Hinanap ko talaga ang grupong ito para ilabas ko ang sama ng loob ko...Sobra po," she said, holding back tears.

Ramos said she was angry at President Duterte for not doing enough to stop the killings and that she blocked in Facebook even relatives who claim that the President was doing good.

"Kahit adik ang isang tao, hindi mo dapat ipapatay. Tuwang-tuwa ka pa. Ga-



Ramos

bi-gabi ako nagdadasal na bigyan ng parusa," Ramos said.

"Wala itong katapusang kailangan mapigil ito. Dadami pa at dadami ang katulad ko. Galit ang naririto sa puso ko. Sobrang galit ko," she said.

"Pag sinabi mabuti ang gawa ni Duterte, kaaway kita. Magaling pumatay. Kinatuwa niyo? Anong good? Pinapatay? Basta lang barilin? Hindi tama. Kaya dapat maalis siya. Maimpeach. Hindi na tama," she added.

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14 Pinoys die in HK

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

FOURTEEN Filipinos died in Hong Kong in the last several weeks, a senior official of the Philippine Consulate General told Hong Kong News as he reminded Filipinos here to take care of their health.

Vice Consul Alex Vallespin said kin and friends of the deceased have reported to the PCG about the deaths.

"We have 14 deaths between November 1 and December 9," he said.

Out of the 14 who passed away, 12 cases were deemed to be of "natural causes", while one fell from a height while performing his duty as a construction worker, and the other committed suicide.

These natural causes include various kinds of heart disease, pneumonia, liver problem, leukemia, kidney failure, and breast cancer.

Nine of the deceased were females, and five were males. Of the total, nine were workers here, four were residents, and one was a tourist.

Oil exec admits to taking upskirt video

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A 43-year-old oil executive from the Philippines has admitted to taking an upskirt video of a Chinese woman in an MTR station.

F. Yap Jr., a petroleum company operations manager, pleaded guilty to committing an act outraging public decency on December 2 at the Eastern Magistrates Courts in Sai Wan Ho.

"Here in Hong Kong, this is a very serious kind of offense," Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-shing told the Filipino.

The judge sentenced him to 10 days imprisonment but suspended it for 12 months. This means that if Yap does not commit a crime in the next 12 months in Hong Kong, he will not go to jail.

"We had studies showing the grave effect of this kind of conduct," Judge To said. "Some women have refrained from wearing skirts, and some have refrained from going to shopping malls and some have avoided escalators."

Yap's lawyer told the court that the defendant was in Hong Kong for a one-day visit when police officers arrested him for taking an upskirt video of a Chinese woman on November 27.

Court allows Pinoy club supervisor to file appeal

By Philip C. Tuba

Hong Kong's Court of Appeal has allowed a senior Filipino club supervisor to appeal his conviction for allegedly being involved in a \$140,000 credit card fraud scam.

In a judgment released on December 2, the court allowed Saudee A.T. to file an appeal and challenge his District Court conviction on September 22, 2015 which led to his being sentenced to three years in prison.

"I am satisfied that the grounds of appeal advanced...are reasonably arguable. Accordingly, I grant leave to appeal against conviction on those grounds," said the judgment penned by Court of Appeal vice-president Michael Lunn.

Saudee worked as a senior supervisor at the Play Club on On Hing Terrace in Central and his co-conspirators allegedly included the club's two former assistant public relations managers and a chef.

The scam involved stealing the credit card details of the club's patrons and then encoding them in chips that were then put in other credit cards. The tampered credit cards were allegedly used to purchase \$140,000 worth of electronic gadgets, including laptops.

The prosecution presented CCTV footage showing that Saudee was present at the Apple Store in Hysan Place in Causeway Bay when one of the tampered cards was used to buy a laptop on July 15, 2014.

Prosecutors also presented evidence showing that the defendant sent, through

"He has been in custody for five days and he was just here in Hong Kong for a one-day visit before his scheduled flight to the Philippines," Yap's lawyer said.

"He was in Macau for an international shooting competition and he has recently gotten the rank of a range officer of (an international group for range officers)," he added.

The lawyer also said Yap has realized the "seriousness of his action" and that his guilty plea "in the earliest instance" saved the court's time and showed that he was "genuinely remorseful".

He added that there was only one video clip stored in the defendant's mobile phone.

"(Yap) had committed the offense out of sheer stupidity and he understands its legal consequences. He is willing to bear the consequences of his actions," the lawyer said.

Yap also submitted a letter to the court, apologizing for his action and saying that he has learned his lesson.

A university graduate in the Philippines, Yap is married and has two children. His monthly income is equivalent to HK\$30,000 and he has donated to charities, the lawyer added.

Yap's wife, his sister, and his father

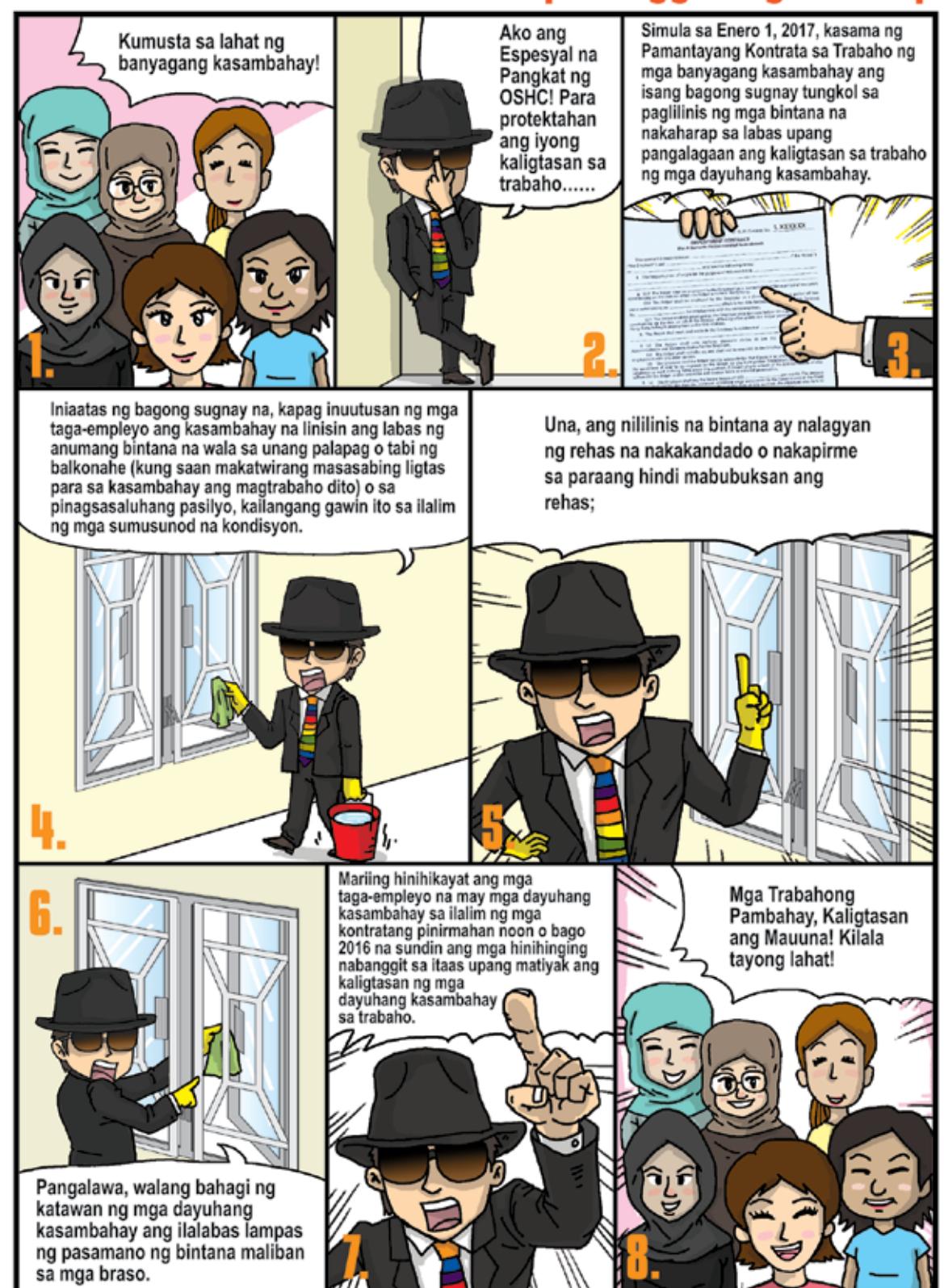
flew in from the Philippines to attend the hearing and show their support, the lawyer added.

"He comes from a good family," the lawyer said, adding that Yap was willing to pay a fine so that he could immediately go back to the Philippines. Yap had no previous criminal record in Hong Kong.



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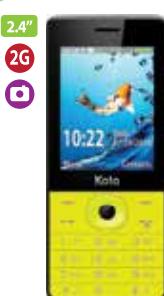


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POLO, Indos target FDH working hours

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) and the Indonesian Consulate General has agreed to join forces to press the Hong Kong government to provide standardized working hours for foreign domestic workers, Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre said.

Dela Torre met on December 13 with Indonesian Deputy Consul General Rafa Walangitan and they agreed to work together on several issues affecting FDHs.

"We've agreed to cooperate on issues that are common to both communities like salaries and working hours. Ipupush namin (sa POLO) at ipupush din nila," Dela Torre said in an interview.

"Basta dapat mafix (ang working hours). We need to address that because it is going to be a very, very common cause of com-

plaints for both communities," he said.

Dela Torre said the POLO and the Indonesians would lobby the Hong Kong government during their technical working group meetings.

"We have technical working group meetings with the Hong Kong government. So, sabay naming i-push," he said.

Eman Villanueva, chair of Bayan Hong Kong and Macau, earlier said that Filipino domestic workers were planning to take legal action should the Hong Kong government exclude them from any regulation that would standardize working hours in the territory.

Villanueva said 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 standardized working hours in the city.

"Ito nakikita namin dito na medyo ma-



Dela Torre

ang migrant domestic workers, hindi namin inaalis 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.

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 complain that they work between 12 and 18 hours a day to serve their employers.

OFWs in HK call for release of political prisoners

By Philip C. Tubeza

OVERSEAS Filipino workers in Hong Kong and their allied groups are calling on the Duterte Administration to release more than 400 political prisoners in the Philippines, a community leader said.

Eman Villanueva, chair of Bayan Hong Kong and Macau, said Filipinos in the city also fasted in solidarity with nearly 80 political prisoners who went on hunger strike from December 3 until December 10, International Human Rights Day.

"This is not only about the peace talks. This is also a matter of justice. These prisoners are actually prisoners of conscience but their cases were criminalized. Trumped-up charges were filed against them," Villanueva said.

"Many of them have been in prison for years due to trumped-up charges. Some are waiting for release. They wait for



OFWs want the prisoners released

hearings that never happened," he added.

Villanueva said many of the political prisoners were "sick, already very old, while others were minors."

"Some of them have stayed in prison for more than a decade. It's also a test for this government," he said.

Villanueva explained that the response

from the government on the issue of political prisoners would show if it was adhering to the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law it signed with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

"It is just right that the political pris-

oners be released. We are calling on solidarity fasting to express support and put more pressure on the Philippine government to release them immediately at least before Christmas," Villanueva said.

"Although we are far, we are making use of social media to be heard and to express participation and solidarity with political prisoners in the Philippines," he added.

The human rights group SELDA (Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto) said 76 political prisoners joined the hunger strike from December 3 to December 10 while at least 122 other political prisoners also participated by fasting.

The prisoners expressed gratitude to their families, progressive groups, and human rights and peace advocates in the Philippines and abroad who supported the call for their release through solidarity fasts and other actions.

3 months for Pinay in Korean resto

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A 43-year-old Filipino domestic helper who was charged in court for helping out in a restaurant owned by her employer was sentenced to three months in prison.

Judge Colin Wong of the Shatin Magistrates' Courts on December 12 found Candelaria Fabroa guilty of breach of condition of stay, noting that prosecution witness, the Labour inspector who posed as a customer in the Korean restaurant "Big Mama", was credible and reliable.

Judge Wong accepted the prosecution witness' evidence that the defendant had "no difficulty in handling the transaction" on July 27, 2016.

During her testimony, the Labour inspector told the court that at about 11:15 a.m. of July 27, she and her colleagues were at the "Big Mama" restaurant and that 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 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 then gave them a \$20-note from the cash register and handed the receipt.

Judge Wong noted inconsistencies in the evidence given by defense witnesses - Fabroa, her employer Mrs. Park, and Rachel, the staff working at the restaurant.

"The defendant knew how to use the machine and how the restaurant operates and this evidence was not challenged," said Judge Wong.



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Bello warns OFWs vs online scam

By Peter Castillo

LABOR Secretary Silvestre Bello warned overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) against a scam using his name to solicit money from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Bello disclosed that some people are using his name on a fake Facebook ac-

count to convince their potential victims, primarily targeting OFWs to invest their hard-earned money in bogus businesses.

"I am advising the public, especially our OFWs, to be vigilant so as not to be victimized by these individuals," Bello said.

"I urge you not to give any information, especially financial in nature, to unidentified persons," he added.

Bello made the announcement after he received a call from a certain Michael Mendoza, who claimed to have deposited a total of P200,000 to an account given by a caller who introduced himself to be the Secretary.

"This is to notify the public that there

is no request from me or from the Department asking for any help," said Bello.

He encouraged the public to ignore any messages or calls that request solicitations using his name on social media.

Bello advised the public to transact with legitimate business entities so that they will not be victimized by scammers

Bello also urged the public to report to the Department's Hotline 1349 any information similar to the said scheme.

"If you will encounter any request for solicitations using my name in any social media accounts, please disregard it. It's a scam," he said, adding that they had reported the scam to Facebook management.

Immigration dragnet nabs 13 illegal foreign workers

By Peter Castillo

THE Immigration Department (ImmD) has arrested 13 foreigners caught working illegally during several territory-wide operations earlier this month.

ImmD officers also arrested seven persons suspected of being the employers of these illegal workers. They were arrested during the crackdown conducted from December 5 and 6.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and, upon conviction, face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment," an ImmD spokesman said.

During the operation codenamed "Twilight", Immigration Task Force officers raided six locations, including a boutique, residential units, and restaurants.

Two illegal workers and three employers were arrested. The two illegal workers were women, aged 49 and 50. Meanwhile, one man and two women, aged 43 to 72, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

During the operation codenamed "Champion", enforcement officers raided seven locations, including massage shops and restaurants in Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei and Tsim Sha Tsui. Eleven illegal workers and four employers were arrested.

The 11 illegal workers included six men and five women aged 26 to 51. Among them, two men were holders of recognition forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment.

Two men and two women were suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity cards. Meanwhile, four women, aged 32 to 43, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.



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FDH gets four months for stealing \$500

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A Filipino domestic helper was sentenced to four months in prison after admitting to stealing \$500 from her employer.

Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-shing of the Eastern Magistrates' Courts on December 5 told 26-year-old Roseanne Dulcera that the case against her was serious because it involved violating the trust her employer gave her.

"The sum involved is not the be-all and the end-all in the consideration of sentencing. As the domestic helper, you were in custody of the entire household items. The degree of trust that your employer had in you is most significant," Judge To said.

He initially sentenced Dulcera to six weeks in prison but reduced it to four weeks owing to her guilty plea.

The prosecutor said Dulcera started working for her employer in September. It was her first contract in Hong Kong.

However, her male employer noticed last month that he had been missing some money. He installed CCTV cameras in



Eastern Magistrates' Courts

the house on November 25. He also began noting down the serial numbers of the bank notes that he kept in a bag in his closet.

On December 4, the employer noticed that a \$500 note was missing. When confronted, Dulcera confessed that she took the cash. Her employer then called the police to have her arrested.

The prosecutor said prior to the case, Dulcera had a clear record.

In mitigation, the duty lawyer told the

court that the defendant was "remorseful," adding that she immediately pleaded guilty to the charge.

"She needed the money to support her family back in the Philippines. She has six siblings and her two parents and they are very poor. She is asking for leniency from the court and, if possible, a suspended sentence," the lawyer said.

However, Judge To said a custodial sentence was the most appropriate for Dulcera's case.

Judge helps Pinay get legal advice

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

ON the supposed day of her trial, she had no lawyer and was apparently unaware of the consequences of being charged in court with "allowing object to fall from height".

It took more than two hours for Special Magistrate Robin Yue King-tin to explain to Jasmin G. that she could face a maximum fine of up to \$10,000 and six months in imprisonment.

Upon realizing that she was facing a real serious charge, Jasmin then wept in court. The "popo" who accompanied the defendant in court was also seen weeping although it was learned that the elderly lady did not understand the proceedings, which were conducted in English.

Jasmin's case stemmed from an incident at about 11:10 a.m. on August 9, 2016, when a wiper that she leaned against the railings of the balcony of her employer's flat in Shau Kei Wan fell to the ground.

The wiper allegedly hit a 59-year-old Chinese waitress, who was taken to a hospital where doctors found some tenderness and swelling on the side of her head. She also had a hematoma.

At the start of the trial hearing, Judge Yue asked Jasmin whether she needed an Ilonggo interpreter because only a Tagalog interpreter was present in court. The defendant said she was fine with Tagalog.

And then the judge asked her whether she was disputing the caution statement submitted by the prosecution to the court or if any police officer, in the process

of taking her statement, intimidated or threatened her. To this, she said there was no dispute and that no one had coerced her into giving the statement.

Judge Yue then read a part of Jasmin's statement, which said that she was "sorry for the accident" and that "she had no intention of dropping the object."

He explained to Jasmin that under the law, it was irrelevant whether she intended for the object to fall or not.

Judge Yue said the offense had two elements: first is that the person knows the



Glass wiper

state of affairs of the particular object that fell; and second is that the person has the power or the state of control of affairs leading to the falling of the particular object.

The judge added that since Jasmin had no legal representation, it was up to him to protect the defendant's right.

Under further questioning, Jasmin told the court that she had questions for the physician who treated and made the medical report about the prosecution witness.

Judge Yue then asked the prosecutor why they presented the medical report without listing the physician as one of

the witnesses.

When Jasmin apparently found the proceedings and the serious consequence of the case overwhelming, particularly if she's found guilty, she started weeping. Judge Yue said he was minded to adjourn the trial of the case especially as he would be moving to the Sha Tin magistracy.

The judge also called for a 30-minute break when Jasmin told the court that she would need a legal advice.

She was then instructed by Judge Yue to go to the District Office, which was also located in the court's building.

Upon the resumption of the hearing, Jasmin told the court that she was scheduled to have a legal consultation on February 7.

The prosecutor, however, informed the court that they would no longer be presenting the medical report, to which Judge Yue said "why only tell me now at this stage?"

The prosecutor said he had only learned about it after an advice from his superiors.

However, Judge Yue said that he would be adjourning the trial to February 14, 2017 as Jasmin had scheduled to seek a legal consultation.

"I am trying to protect everyone before me," Judge Yue said.

The judge said the additional seven days before the resumption of the trial again are to allow time for her should she need to get a lawyer and give her instructions.

"You are given a second chance to get a legal advice. I sincerely hope that you use this opportunity," Judge Yue said.



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Kabayan



Ex-FDH worries about PH drug war

By Philip C. Tuba

A 45-year-old former Filipino domestic worker has admitted to trafficking at least 25 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in Wan Chai.

The lawyer of Angelita Gonzales also asked for leniency from High Court Judge Esther Toh, adding that his client was worried about returning to the Philippines, where President Duterte's antidrug war has left more than 5,000 dead.

"She does not know what's going to happen (to her). This is going to be hanging over her like a black cloud while she is

(in jail) in the next few years," the lawyer told Judge Toh on December 6.

Gonzales was arrested on June 25, 2015 after the police received a tip that there was a Filipina involved in drug trafficking in a building in Wan Chai.

At around 10:05 a.m. that day, investigators at the North Point police station decided to conduct a surveillance operation.

Four hours later, Gonzales came out of the flat. She was carrying a recycled bag.

The police intercepted her and, when they checked the recycled bag, they found a re-sealable plastic bag with 25.7 grams of shabu, several tablets of another illegal

drug, and three bottles of a liquid that contained traces of methamphetamine.

Gonzales said a Chinese man gave the illegal drugs to her and she was going to meet him again in Causeway Bay.

At first, the Filipina denied that she used illegal drugs but she later admitted to being a drug addict.

Gonzales first arrived in Hong Kong in 1991 to work as a domestic helper but, after her last contract ended in 2001, she did not go home to the Philippines and overstayed.

In 2007, she had an American boyfriend who was a drug user. He was the one who "encouraged her to take drugs," her lawyer said.

The lawyer also said that, when Gonzales became hooked on drugs in 2008, she stopped sending money to her son and daughter back in the Philippines.

But despite of this, her daughter, now



Shabu

23, was present during the court hearing to show her support for her mother.

"There has been reconciliation and a period of forgiveness. It almost makes her feel worse because she stopped supporting her son and daughter," Gonzales' lawyer told the judge.

"She will have to work very hard after letting them down," he added.

Judge Toh adjourned the case to December 15 after Gonzales' lawyer said that there was an issue that the Correctional Services Department had to clear up that might have a bearing on her sentencing.

Dishwasher to serve 20 months in jail

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A Filipino dishwasher was sentenced to one year and eight months in prison after admitting to breaking into a flat in Hung Hom.

Defendant J.J. Rodil pleaded guilty on November 28 to one count of burglary before Deputy District Court Judge Bina Chainrai.

Judge Chainrai agreed with the defense that there was no aggravating factor that would have led her to impose a longer jail sentence.

She said the starting point of Rodil's sentence was two years and six months, but she reduced this by a third to one year and eight months due to his guilty plea.

Court records showed that the incident happened at about 4:15 p.m. on April 30 in a residential building in Hung Hom.

A lady on the building's fourth floor heard a noise coming from the flat above her.

When she looked up outside her window, she saw a hand poking from the window of the flat above.

Police officers then arrived and prevented Rodil from leaving the flat. They eventually arrested him.

The police officers found glass shards from a smashed window, cutters, a pair of pliers, and a water tap in the kitchen that was dismantled. Fingerprints of Rodil were also lifted from the scene of the crime.

The unit, which was owned by Richland Property Agency, was described as "uncoccupied" and "not luxurious".

Under questioning, Rodil told investigators that he was brought to the flat by "two foreign men".

Asking for leniency, Rodil's lawyer told Judge Chainrai that the defendant was a divorcee and a father of five children aged between five and 19. His three elder children are living in the Philippines, while the two others—aged 11 and five—are staying

with their mother here in Hong Kong.

The lawyer said Rodil earned \$13,000 a month as a dishwasher and he gave \$500 to \$600 weekly to his estranged wife to help support their two youngest children.

The lawyer also said that Rodil had a fight with his girlfriend and drank four bottles of beer on the day of the incident.

"He said he still knew what he was doing at the time, so there must be dishonesty on his part," the lawyer said.

He argued that the only mitigation for Rodil was that he pleaded guilty, but added that there was no aggravating factor either.

"He did not bring along any equipment. There was no premeditation. It was not committed in late hours, there was no loss of property, and no one was injured," he said.

Rodil, who lived with his 70-year-old mother here in Hong Kong, had seven previous convictions, including one for burglary in 2014.

Pinay denies stealing bracelet

By Philip C. Tuba

A Filipino domestic helper denied in court the accusation that she stole the bracelet of her employer in North Point.

Defendant Leilani R. B., pleaded not guilty on December 8 after the charge was read to her before Eastern Courts Principal Magistrate Joseph To.

The theft allegedly happened between October 1 and 3 at the Sky Horizon Apartment in North Point.

The prosecution said they will present two witnesses against Leilani while the defense asked for her trial to be postponed for six weeks because they wanted a member of the Helpers for Domestic Helpers (HDH) group to testify on her behalf.

Leilani and her employer supposedly had a conciliation meeting at the Labour



North Point

Tribunal and statements made there by her employer might have a bearing on the theft charge filed against the Filipina.

However, the HDH member who was present during the conciliation meeting will be out of Hong Kong during the Christmas holidays and so would not be able to testify if the trial proceeds this month.

Judge To denied the defense motion to postpone the hearing for six weeks, saying that the points that will be expounded upon by the HDH member could be raised during the cross examination of Leilani's employer.

The magistrate set Leilani's trial on December 21 at Court 3 of the Eastern Magistrates Courts.

Judge To added that Leilani could file an appeal if she disagreed with his decision to proceed with the trial.

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NAIA Christmas lane, counters for OFWs

By Bing Jabadan

THE Bureau of Customs (BoC) has put up special counters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for overseas Filipino workers who have complaints against their personnel this Christmas.

The BoC promised to act on the complaints within 24 hours.

NAIA Customs District Collector Ed Macabeo said the counters and a special lane for OFWs were put up in NAIA terminals with the approval of Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon.

"If anyone among the arriving OFWs was hassled by members of Customs at the arrival areas, all you need to do is to report to the bureau or direct to me and I am assuring anyone that action will be

done within 24 hours," Macabeo said in an interview.

"We are expecting thousands of bags coming out of the Customs conveyor belts brought by OFWs and balikbayans coming from around the globe," he added.

Macabeo appealed to all OFWs and balikbayan to refrain from bringing in illegal items or items in "commercial quantities".

Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Ed Montreal said he also instructed his men to ensure that the thousands of OFWs and balikbayans expected to arrive this Christmas season are not hassled.

He also asked airline officials to assist their passengers who have missing baggage and to be ready for the huge number of departing passengers in January after

the holidays.

"Coordination has been made with the immigration and airlines regarding the efficient processing of passengers documents at the check-in counters as more airline personnel will be deployed to accommodate the increase of travelers," Montreal said.

Montreal said he also directed other government agencies operating at the airport--- including the Office for Transportation Security (OTS), aviation and airport police—to deploy sufficient personnel and ensure the smooth flow of passengers through the airports.

He added that different choirs and rondallas were at the arrival areas to welcome and serenade passengers with Christmas songs.



NAIA Terminal 1

Pinoy fined after throwing away sofa in North Point

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

HE could not find a lawyer so he ended up pleading guilty to the charge of "unlawfully depositing waste" after he threw away a sofa on a street in North Point.

Mario Baltazar, a construction worker, told Judge Ko Wai-hung of the Eastern Magistrates' Courts that he was pleading guilty to the offense as he could not afford a lawyer.

With his guilty plea, Baltazar was fined \$6,000, the \$1,000 of which would come from his bail money, and

the rest to be paid in three months.

Judge Ko said the maximum fine for the offense was \$25,000, while the average fine was a little over \$7,000.

Baltazar told the court that as a construction worker, he earns \$950 a day.

In November, Baltazar initially pleaded not guilty to the offense.

He said he did not have a legal representation because the Duty Lawyer Service refused to represent him.

Baltazar added that he had approached the Hong Kong Bar Association and he was told that they would need 28 days to study his case.

Balikbayan...

From page 1

contain only personal and household effects and these should not be in commercial quantities. Also, OFWs can avail of this privilege only up to three times a year.

"Filipinos abroad may avail themselves of duty and tax free privileges on balikbayan boxes containing personal effects and household goods," Faeldon said.

He said the Filipinos abroad availing themselves of the exemption must present valid passports and should also be certified by Department of Labor and Employment for overseas employment purposes regardless of profession.

"Non-resident Filipinos who have es-

tablished permanent residency abroad but retained their Filipino citizenship, Filipino citizens who temporarily stay abroad may include holders of student visa, investors' visa, tourist visa, and similar visas which allow them to establish temporary stay abroad, can also avail themselves of the exemption," he added.

Faeldon said balikbayan boxes that would take three-days shipping time must be delivered within 24 hours after arrival, while boxes that would take seven days to ship must be out 48 hours after arrival.

Shipments from America, Europe, Middle East, and other parts of the world that do not fall under the above shipping time must be released 10 days after arrival.

Faeldon said balikbayan boxes that



Filipinos prepare balikbayan boxes in Central.

Tempers flare over BM Online applications

By Philip C. Tuba

TEMPERS flared up at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) on December 11 over the long lines of applicants of overseas employment certificates (OECs).

One applicant said she went to the POLO that day without an appointment because, whenever she applied, an error message popped up.

"Nakakainis na ito. Mas mabuti pa yung una kasi pipila ka lang at magbabayad, tapos na. Ngayon, ang dami pang kaartahan," she said.

"Magagalit na nito ang mga amo nam-in dahil pabalik-balik na sa POLO para makakuha ng OEC," she added.

Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre urged

applicants to set an appointment on BM Online before going to the (POLO).

Many OFWs with no appointments on December 11 complained that those with appointments were being prioritized.

Dela Torre said around 300 OFWs with no appointments showed up at the POLO that day, a Sunday, while around 600 more had appointments.

"Get an appointment. It doesn't matter kung sa February pa. Basta may appointment, we will attend to you," he said.

Dela Torre said those who get an appointment set after December 29 could drop by the POLO to get their OEC around 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. in the afternoon.

He said the POLO would be open on Sundays until 8 p.m. while it closes at 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

"On weekdays, we will remain open basta may tao pa na nakapila. Ang nag-tatagal yung wala talang account dahil mag-crecreate ka pa. So, before getting an appointment, magregister na and i-fill up na ang profile," he added.

Dela Torre also issued a memo to employment agencies that all employment contracts they submit for renewal or for transfer of employer should have proof that the worker had already registered on BM Online.

"Effective December 15, 2016, all employment contracts submitted for renewal and transfer/change-employer (finished contract) without an attached proof of worker's successful online registration through www.bmonline.ph will be rejected," he told employment agencies.



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Window of the World

By Philip C. Tubeza

TRAVEL aficionados crisscross the globe to visit ancient temples and palaces, enjoy vibrant modern cities, or get awed by sublime vistas that are the gifts of nature.

But for Filipinos in Hong Kong who are still building up their budget for those longed-for travels and adventure, there's a temporary salve to soothe that itch called wanderlust.

Just over the border in Shenzhen stands the Window of the World, a 48-hectare theme park that features around 130 smaller reproductions of the world's most famous tourist attractions.

It was a cool Saturday morning when we trooped to Lo Wu to step into mainland China and visit the park.

For just HK\$300, a travel agency had prepared for us an itinerary that included a visit to Shenzhen shops, lunch at a Chi-



The theme park's version of the Big Apple.

nese restaurant, and almost half a day to wander around the theme park.

The travel agency also prepared our one-day visas.

We first visited a shop that sold products

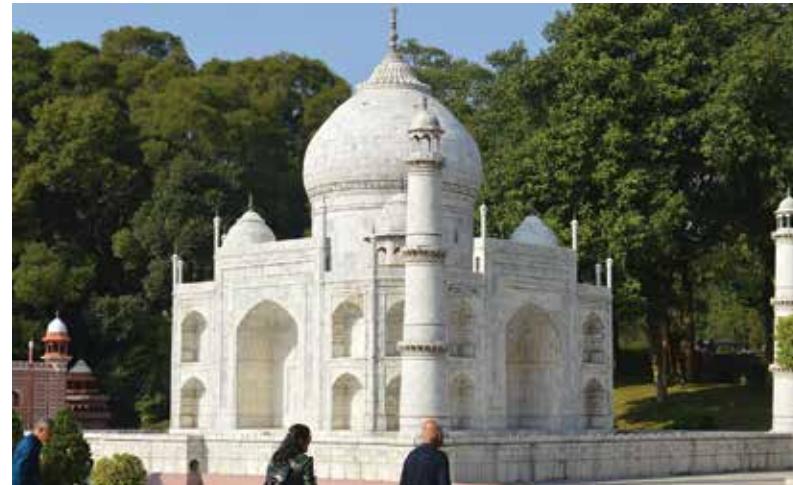
made of bamboo fiber and then another shop that sold jewelry. The women who loved the jewelry.

After lunch at a Chinese restaurant, we rode our tourist coaster and proceeded to

the theme park.

Our tourist guide wondered why Filipinos going to Shenzhen always requested a visit to Window of the World.

She said there were other attractions like



A smaller Taj Mahal



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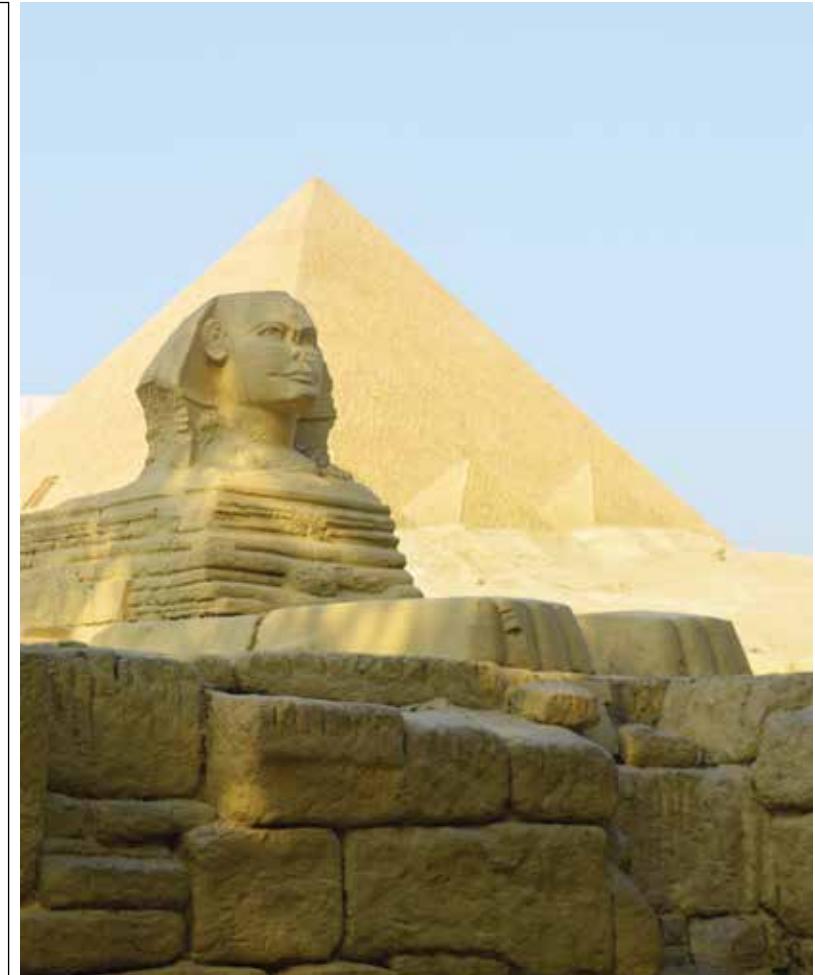
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A sphinx also guards the replicas of the pyramids of Giza

Splendid China, another theme park featuring the culture and attractions of China.

She added that there was also the Shenzhen Safari Park for those who want to go on a safari without flying all the way to Africa.

Well, they can wait. For this visit, we intended to see the world, or at least a Chinese reproduction of it.

A glass pyramid resembling the Louvre Pyramid in Paris greeted us after getting off at the theme park's main gate. Emblazoned on it were the words: Window of the World.

Just after the main gate, a visitor encounters reproductions of the many famous tourist sites of Asia like the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, the Borobudur in Indonesia, the royal palace in Bangkok, and the Taj Mahal.

If you walk a little further, there's a reproduction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House.

Some more steps and you're in Europe, with replicas of Venice's St. Marks Square, St. Petersburg's Winter Palace, Paris' Eiffel Tower, London's Palace of Westminster and Big Ben, the Cologne cathedral, and the Vatican's St. Peter's Square.

You could also visit Africa (with a reproduction of the Pyramids and the houses of Timbuktu), the United States (there's New York, the White House, and Mt. Rushmore) and Latin America.

This might sound that it will only take a tourist one or two hours to finish going around the theme park. But knowing Filipinos, half a day would not be enough for all the picture taking.



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Leni resigns from Cabinet

By Maia Lopez

VICE President Leni Robredo has resigned as member of the Cabinet of President Rodrigo Dutete, citing "major differences in principles and values" between the two of them and hinting at a plot to steal the vice presidency from her.

"We had hoped this day would not come...With this resignation, you can expect that I will continue to support the positive initiatives of this administration and oppose those that are inimical to the people's interest," Robredo said as she stepped down as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

She revealed receiving a text message from Cabinet Secretary Jun Evasco Jr. that Dutete wanted her to "desist from attending all Cabinet meetings starting Monday, December 5."

"This is the last straw, because it makes it impossible for me to perform my duties," she said.



Robredo

The Vice President also cited "obstacles" in the HUDCC that have hindered her from doing her job.

"One, the budget for all key shelter agencies in 2017 has been slashed by more than P19 billion. Two, all our key shelter agency appointment recommendations have not been acted on. Three, the Executive Order designed to make HUDCC effective was not signed," she said.

Duterte accepted Robredo's resignation "with a heavy heart" even as Communi-

tions Secretary Martin Andanar acknowledged that the two highest officials in the country had "irreconcilable differences."

"The President said they had irreconcilable differences. I think Filipinos know this. The President has taken one position, and the Vice President always takes another opposing position," Andanar said.

The President assured Robredo that there is no plan to cut her term as vice president short.

"I assure Leni and the rest of the Bicol

region that you will have her until the very end of her term," Dutete said. "There is no such thing as removing a vice president."

Robredo, a former congressional representative of Camarines Sur, is facing an electoral protest lodged by former Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr., whom she defeated in the May elections with a margin of 263,473 votes.

Aside from Robredo, two officials of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines have resigned to protest the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani.

NHCP chairperson Maria Serena Diokno and commissioner Francis Gealogo both decided to leave the NHCP.

Meanwhile, Duterte appointed Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año as the new Armed Forces chief of staff, replacing Gen. Ricardo Visaya who has retired. AFP vice chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda will succeed Año as Army chief.

Yellows out to get me---Duterte

By Maia Lopez



PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has bared a plot to oust him by "yellow" forces who have joined protest actions against the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Duterte

Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"These yellows are demonstrating. You want me out kasi you cannot accept defeat," Duterte said.

He said the "yellows" might be plotting to install Vice President Leni Robredo if their alleged plan to oust him succeeds.

Although Duterte did not mention the Liberal Party which is associated with the yellow color, LP president Senator Francis Pangilinan denied that the former ruling party was plotting against the President.

Pangilinan said the LP has lost more than half of its members that the few ones left "can fit inside a Volkswagen."

He said the presence of LP members in anti-Marcos rallies does not mean the party wants to overthrow the Duterte administration.

"We are not out to topple the government. When we disagree with some of the policies, that does not mean we want to oust the present administration," Pangilinan added.

Duterte, however, expressed confidence that that any move to unseat him will not succeed.

"The left will never allow me to be ousted. The New People's Army - they're all pro-Duterte," he said.

"This is politics - they want me out and of course the Vice President will step up. They've had their chance, though," the President added.

Among the LP stalwarts who joined the November 30 rally at the People Power Monument were former interior secretary and defeated Liberal presidential bet Manuel Roxas II, Senator Leila de Lima, former Social Welfare secretary Corazon Soliman, and former Education secretary Armin Luistro.

Filipino-American businesswoman Loida Nicolas Lewis, one of the most active supporters of Roxas and Robredo during the campaign, has called on Duterte to resign but denied she was part of a coup plot against the President.

Pangilinan insisted that false information may have been reaching Duterte. The senator said the alleged ouster plan against the President was first brought up by former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

House files ethics complaint vs De Lima

By Maia Lopez



HOUSE leaders have filed an ethics complaint against Senator Leila de Lima for advising her former boyfriend Ronnie Dayan against attending a congressional inquiry on illegal drugs.

The complaint was personally filed by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas and Oriental Mindoro Rep. Reynaldo Umali, chair of House justice committee, before the Senate committee on ethics.

The complaint cited De Lima for violation of Article 150 of the Revised Penal Code (disobedience to summons).

"As an incumbent Senator, former Secretary of Justice and a lawyer, advising and inducing Mr. Dayan to hide and not to attend and/or appear in the House inquiry for which she was duly summoned, is tantamount to restraining or inducing disobedience to a summon issued by Congress, of which she is a sitting member, in violation of Article 150 of the Revised Penal Code," the complaint read.

Former National Bureau of Investigation deputy directors Reynaldo Esmeraldo and Ruel Lasala also filed a separate ethics case against the embattled senator.

Umali said they will also file a criminal complaint against De Lima before the Department of Justice for disregarding their investigation into the illegal drug trade inside the New Bilibid Prison.

De Lima was on an official trip to the United States and Germany when the complaint was lodged before the Senate committee headed by Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

She has repeatedly insisted that what



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PH eyes Russia as destination for OFWs

By Maia Lopez

THE Department of Labor and Employment is looking at Russia as the next work destination for skilled Filipino workers, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said.

Bello said President Duterte will discuss labor relations when he visits the socialist state and meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin early next year.

"I already sent a memo to the President requesting him to include the possible deployment of skilled and professional workers to Russia," Bello said.

He also said that there is a demand for construction and household service workers in the Russian republic.

Bello said that because of the decline in oil price in the Middle East, there are fewer job opportunities in that part of the globe and Russia is a good alternative for skilled and professional workers who are looking for high paying jobs.

"We noticed that there is a decline in the demand for OFWs in the Middle East. We have to look for other countries where there are demands for our OFWs," he added.

In 2014, there are about 4,000 OFWs in Russia who are working in construction,



Yasay speaks to a Russian journalist

hotels, and households.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay, Jr. spoke to Russia's TASS News Agency about his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the planned visit of President Rodrigo R. Duterte to Russia in 2017.

In his interview with Mr. Evgeny Kolomeets, Secretary Yasay stressed the importance of laying the groundwork for President Duterte's visit.

"Those preparations are important because we do not feel that the visit of our president should be merely ceremonial, that we would like to get into something more substantive within the view of fostering stronger and better ties with Russia, especially that this year we commemorate

the 40th anniversary of our bilateral relationship," he said.

"We have to work on this much stronger. Moreover, it comes in a timely initiative especially so that our president has reiterated and realigned our independent foreign policy where we really have to extend friendship and mutual understanding with all countries," he added.

Yasay was in Moscow together with Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana who met with officials from the Ministry of Defense and the Federal Service for Military Technical Cooperation. The two cabinet officials were instructed by President Duterte to visit Moscow after his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Lima, Peru.

S. Korea lauds PH program

By Maia Lopez

THE Ministry of Employment on Labor of the Republic of Korea (MOEL-ROK) has commended the Philippines for its active promotion of voluntary return of workers and for rolling out successful reintegration programs, making it a possible reference in adopting return programs of other labor-sending countries under the Employment Permit System (EPS).

Welfare Officer Manuela Peña of

the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Korea said the commendation was in recognition of Philippines' best practices in complementing the South Korean's effort to promote the return support program for foreign workers.

"The Philippines was commended for its major achievement of maintaining a steady percentage decline of undocumented number of Filipino EPS workers from 2013 to July 2016, reducing it from 6,548 to 4,962, or from 31.7 percent

down to 19.7 percent," Peña said.

Peña said the commendation came from MOEL Deputy Minister Jong-kil Park, during a meeting on 21 October 2016 at Royal Hotel Seoul in Myeong-dong.

Labor Attachés of the 16 labor-sending countries under the EPS attended this meeting which aimed to discuss the current implementation status of EPS and the comprehensive sending system monitoring program for foreign workers in South Korea.

3 Pinoys die in Sabah

By Maia Lopez

MALAYSIAN security forces killed three Filipino gunmen when they tried to rob fishermen in Sabah's east coast on December 8.

The three gunmen were among a group of eight which engaged the Malaysian police's Tiger Platoon off Palau Bodgaya in Semporna.

The police arrested three of the gunmen while security forces were hunting down the others.

The Filipino gunmen, armed with four rifles and a pistol, had boarded the fishing trawler Yakin 2 and robbed its fishermen of valuables, headphones, and food. They also kidnapped the boat's skipper.

The gunmen then destroyed the boat's communication equipment.

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Simbang Gabi celebrations start in New York

By Maia Lopez

THE Philippine Consulate General New York, in coordination with 10 sponsoring Filipino-American community groups under the Coalition of Schools and ANCOP, opened the nine-day Simbang Gabi sa Konsulado.

The main Mass celebrant was Papal Nuncio to the United Nations, Archbishop Bernardito Auza and concelebrated by Fr. Ed Jocson. An overflow crowd packed the Kalayaan Hall and the Kalayaan Annex for the first night of Simbang Gabi.

Now on its 29th year, the Simbang Gabi sa Konsulado's theme for 2016 was "MapayapangPasko Para sa Maunlad na Pagbabago" (A Peaceful Christmas Towards Progressive Change).

The Simbang Gabi sa Konsulado provides a venue for the Filipino-American community to continue celebrating Filipino Christmas traditions overseas as well as for an opportunity to collaborate, coordinate and work together to organize Masses, salu-salo and other events like gift-giving and community Christmas carolling.

In her remarks, Consul General Theresa Dizon-de Vega thanked all the sponsoring organizations throughout the nine-day activity, adding that the celebration allows

the different community organizations to work together for a distinctly Filipino Christmas tradition.

She likewise noted that the Simbang Gabi at the consulate was now in its 3rd decade.

"By opening our hearts to the genuine meaning of Simbang Gabi the ritual will remain fresh and meaningful," she said.

In his homily, Archbishop Auza emphasized the significant role of the Filipino community in addressing the cultural challenges that migrants face in particular the transitions and gaps from one generation to the next.

He thanked the community for keeping traditions like Simbang Gabi alive in New York and sharing it with the younger generation and mainstream US society.

The Simbang Gabi celebrations started with a Parol lighting ceremony, which was held in coordination with the Philippine Center-New York and the Philippine Department of Tourism-New York.

The traditional parols made from capiz shells were set up at the Lobby Gallery of the Philippine Center to showcase the different Christmas celebrations in the Philippines.

The parols were sourced from San Fernando, Pampanga, a city best associated with the Parol Festival.



The lighting of the parols at the Philippine Center in New York

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Equal Opportunities Commission	2511 8211
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International Social Services	2836 3598
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UNIFIL holds 15th Congress

THE foremost militant alliance of OFWs in Hong Kong, the United Filipinos (UNIFIL-MIGRANTE-HK), held its 15th Congress on November 20 at the University of Hong Kong.

Attended by more than 400 OFWs from its member organizations and allies, the Congress was held with the theme: "Higit na isulong ang makabayan, maka-migrante at makamasang reforma sa panahon ng gobyernong Duterte! Iltantad at labanan ang atake ng mga dayuhan at lokal na kaaway ng sambayanan! Kumilos para sa tunay na pagbabagong panlipunan!"

Former Kabataan Partylist representative to the Philippine Congress and current Chairperson of BAYAN Metro Manila Raymond "Mong" Palatino, delivered the Keynote Address where he presented the national situation and the conduct of progressive and national democratic forces under the present government of Duterte.



The delegates at the UNIFIL Congress

Cultural presentations like songs, dances, poems, plays and a Balagtasan further highlighted the issues of OFWs as migrants in Hong Kong and as part of the Filipino people wanting genuine change

in the country.

Solidarity messages were given by Gary Martinez of Migrante International, Eni Lestari of the International Migrants Alliance (IMA) and Prof. Jose Maria Sison of

the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS).

Allies of UNIFIL from other federations also gave messages of support.

The congress reaffirmed its commitment to pursue the long standing issues of OFWs many of which are included in the "Hong Kong Migrants Agenda to the Duterte Government" which was submitted in the beginning of Duterte's term. The Alliance also reiterated the necessity to take part and contribute in the national democratic struggle of the Filipino people as the only path for genuine change and lasting peace.

Finally, the Congress elected the Executive Committee of the alliance for 2016-2018.

They were Dolores Balladares-Pelaez (Chairperson), Sheila Tebia (Vice Chairperson), Eman Villanueva (Secretary General), Lucy Ta-a (Deputy Secretary General) and Betty Palabay (Treasurer).

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Workshop for distressed OFWs in shelters

THE Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong in cooperation with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and Pathfinders, organized a one-day interactive workshop for female Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in various shelters in Hong Kong on November 25 at the Philippine Consulate.

"Babae, Natatangi 2," was organized for the 2nd year pursuant to Republic Act 10398 (An Act Declaring November Twenty-Five of Every Year as "National Consciousness Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women And Children"), Section 31 of Republic Act 9710 (Provision of gender-responsive, rights-based and culture sensitive services and interventions to Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances), and Section 26 of Republic Act 9710 (Right to Information regarding policies on women, including programs, projects and funding outlays that affect them).

Forty-eight participants from seven different shelters in Hong Kong, namely, Migrant Workers and Other Filipinos Resource Center, Bethune House Shelter

(Mission for Migrant Workers), Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Filipinos, Jesus Is Lord, New Beginnings, Pathfinders, and Christian Action participated in the project.

They were accompanied by over ten shelter managers and staff members.

The participants were briefed on the various services of the Consulate General and its attached agencies, lecture/workshop on sexual harassment, migrant pregnant women's rights, and domestic worker rights.

Speakers were Ms. Devi Novianti, Corporate Communications Officer, Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) Ms. Carmen Lam, Senior Community Development Manager, and Ms. Lia Ngatini. The case manager of Pathfinders gave a talk on rights of pregnant women migrants and mothers, while Labor Attaché Jalilo O. Dela Torre also talked about the basic rights of a domestic worker under Hong Kong law.

"Babae, Natatangi 2" is the Consulate General's 4th project under Gender and Development Program for 2016

GALLERY

Vice Consul Robert Quintin inducted the newly-elected officers of the Mui Wo Filipino Community (MWFC) on Dec. 11. The new officers are led by their chair, Mr. Arthur Pingol.



Rhea Nee (second from the right) wins a Kata V4 during the Christmas party of the Mui Wo Filipino Community (MFVC), which is now on its 5th year. The group includes OFWs working together to unite the Filipino spirit in Mui Wo.



OWTEL, the Number 1 electronics retailer, opens its newest shops in Tuen Mun and Sheung Shui. The company wants to redefine convenience. It has continued to expand aggressively everywhere in Hong Kong. Mr. David Chen, OWTEL CEO, wants to challenge Fortress. He wants to sell everything from phones, watches, PCs, and plans to expand to kitchenware. OWTEL has great discounts better than Fortress and 0% installment programs that beat all the competition.

The World Through Photography HK group celebrated its second anniversary on December 4 at Tamar Park in Admiralty.

PCG starts OAV registration

By Peter Castillo

THE Philippine Consulate General (PCG) has started its registration drive for the overseas absentee voters for the 2019 elections.

All Filipino registered voters abroad, who were not disqualified by law and are at least 18 years old, may vote during the 2019 midterm elections and choose their senators and party-list representatives.

Those who are not registered may file their applications for registration at the PCG or other registration centers authorized by the Commission on Elections.

To register, the applicant should personally appear at the PCG on the 14th Floor of United Centre in Admiralty for their biometrics.

They should also bring along a photo-copy of their passport or, if they have dual citizenship, a copy of the oath of allegiance or proof of Philippine citizenship from the Bureau of Immigration.

For Filipino seaman, they can bring along a copy of their seaman's book.

The registration period began on December 1 and will last until Sept. 30, 2018.

The 30-day voting period for the 2019 midterm elections will start on April 13, 2019 until May 13, 2019.

In the 2016 presidential polls, the Hong Kong post had the highest turnout among overseas absentee voters.

953 OFWs take civil service exam

By Philip C. Tubeza

MORE than 900 overseas Filipino workers took the first civil service exam conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) outside the Philippines, Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre said.

Dela Torre said a total of 953 OFWs from Hong Kong and Macau trooped to the Delia Memorial School in Hip Wo to take the exam.

He added that 676 OFWs took the exam for professionals while 277 took

the test for sub-professionals.

"It went smoothly. Ok naman although it started a little late at 1:45 p.m.," Dela Torre said in an interview.

He said the CSC has decided to hold the exam every year here in Hong Kong while Filipinos in Jeddah are reportedly also asking that civil service exams be held there.

"Ang sabi ko sa kanila mas maganda kung gawin natin ito ng October kasi kung late November ang iba nag uuwan na," Dela Torre said.

"Kung mga July naman, nagbabakasyon ang mga amo so bakasyon din ang mga kababayan natin," he added.

While more than 2,000 OFWs signed up to take the exam, Dela Torre said many might not have pushed through because of the short registration period.

"Siguro may mga nagsign up pero walang commitment. We also suspect it was because of the short registration period. Barely two weeks lang," Dela Torre said.

He said there were also complaints

about long lines to have their photos taken for the application form.

"First time itong lumabas ng bansa (ng CSC). They're getting lessons on how to do it better next year," Dela Torre said.

The CSC said those who will pass the exam can personally claim their Certification of Eligibility upon their return to the Philippines at the CSC office they selected on the online registration form.

Representatives are not allowed to claim the certification on their behalf, it added.

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Editorial

HONG KONG NEWS

The debate on death

ONCE again, Filipino lawmakers are debating whether to reinstate or not the death penalty in the Philippines.

The death penalty bill was recently passed by a committee of the House of Representatives. Under the bill, 20 crimes or offenses were proposed to be punishable by death.

While we recognize the right of the state to impose death as a way to deter crime, we hope the administration study this thoroughly and exhaustively.

The Philippines is by no means a wealthy country, and many of its citizens are still considered poor. Only those who are wealthy could afford to hire the services of a good defense lawyer.

This also means that investigation procedures and practices of the country's law enforcers should be polished and

improved. It is imperative that all pieces of evidence in a criminal case be handled well and sensitively. Sloppy investigation procedures could lead to wrongful conviction, and could send an innocent man to the gallows.

A 2014 article of The Washington Post said there was still strong evidence that execution deter crimes.

"We're very hard pressed to find really strong evidence of deterrence," the article quoted Columbia Law School's Jeffrey Fagan as saying.

Criminologists, it added, have also been "unable to assemble a strong case that capital punishment deters crime".

We therefore urge our lawmakers to be more prudent and circumspect in debating the reinstatement of death penalty in the Philippines.

Health Alert

Healthy eating tips for eating out

EATING healthily is fundamental to our health. A healthy and balanced diet can benefit our body by providing an adequate amount of energy and nutrients that can help to maintain health and prevent many non-communicable chronic diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes and certain cancer etc.

Unhealthy eating habit is closely linked to the development of obesity and chronic diseases. The World Health Organization advises that to reduce the risk of suffering from NCD, people should eat at least 400g of fruit and vegetables a day together with reducing the intake of salt, sugar and fat. However, eating out frequently often increases the chance of consuming high-energy, high-fat, and salty foods, which may lead to overweight and health problems.

To facilitate the public choosing healthier dishes while eating out, the Department of Health has launched the EatSmart@Restaurant.hk (ESR) Campaign since 2008. Currently, there are over 600 restaurants participating in this Campaign with the ESR decal displaying at the eye-catching area in their shops.

They provide at least 5 healthier dishes for customers in their business period. So,

you might start to eat smart for benefiting your health in an easier way while dining out. Remember "To Keep healthy whenever, Eat smart wherever".

es with more vegetables and less meat; (3) request the restaurant use less sugar, salt and oil while handling the food you order and if possible, (4) serve the sauce of dish and the syrup of the drink separately. (5) Whenever you make an order, you can enquire the portion size of dishes first so as to avoid ordering excessive amount food. (6) Also, don't force yourself to finish the leftover on the table.

They provide at least 5 healthier dishes for customers in their business period. So, you might start to eat smart for benefiting your health in an easier way while dining out. Remember "To Keep healthy whenever, Eat smart wherever".

As We See it



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

Human Rights at Migrant Rights

KATATAPOS lang ng pagdiriwang ng International Human Rights Day nitong December 10 at susunod naman ang International Migrants Day sa December 18. Kung tutuusin, magkaugnay naman talaga ang dalawa lalo pa't isa sa mga mayor na usapin sa pagtatanggol sa interes ng mga migrante ay siyempre, ang kanilang karapatan. Migrants' rights ay human rights, ika nga.

Madali nating masapol na ang mga migrante ay may mga karapatan. Siyempre, dahil direkta ang epektu sa atin kapag ang mga nasabing karapatan ang tinatamaan, tinatanggal o hindi nirespeto. Halimbawa, ngayon ay bina-blacklist ng HK Immigration Department ang mga domestic workers na madalas daw nagpapalit ng employer o nagte-terminate ng kontrata. Pinaparusahan agad ang mga migrante ng walang "due process" at hindi binibigyan ng visa dahil diumano ay nagjob-hoppong. Hindi ba't paglabag ito sa karapa-

tan ng manggagawa na ayon sa Labor Orindance? Kailan pa naging krimen ang pag-change employer?

Maalala rin natin ang sanlaksang mga migrante na nasa death row o kaya ay nasa mga kulungan. Maaaring marami sa kanila ay katulad ng istorya ni Flor Contemplacion o di kaya ay ni Mary Jane Veloso – mga biktima ng sirkumstansya at kapabayaan. Paano nga naman ang kanilang karapatan? Hindi ba't makatarungan na sila ay matulungan kung hindi man ay mapalaya?

Sa Migrants' Day ay itutulak ang mga iba't ibang mga isyu na nakatuntong sag a fundamental na karapatan natin – ang karapatan na magpahinga, makatanggap ng sapat na pagkain, tamang sweldo, at ang mailigtas sa peligro. Kaya nga kampanya ngayon na maisama tayo sa regulasyon ng working hours, ang pag-basa window-cleaning, ang pagtaas ng sa-hod, at ang pagtanggal ng parusa sa pag-

change employer. Tatal, karapatan naman iyan, di ba?

Kaya't kung tayo ay may malakas na pandama para sa ating mga karapatan bilang mga migrante, mabilis din nating madama ang mga kaugnay na usapin ng karapatang-pantao – lalo na mismo sa ating bansa.

Mababahala din tayo sa balita na patuloy na nakakulong at ayaw palayain ang mahigit 400 na political prisoners sa bansa. Tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang militarisation ng AFP sa mga probinsya kahit na may ceasefire. Mahigit 5,000 na ang napapataw sa war on drugs ng pamahalaan at hindi napaparusahan ang mga pulis na sangkot sa mga rubout. Ang bagong hirang na Chief of Staff ng AFP ay may bahid ang record sa human rights. Nais ding ibalik ang death penalty.

Hindi dapat payagan na ipagwalang-bahala ang human rights, saanman at kailanman.

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,
Papauwi na po ako sa atin sa susunod na taon. Matapos ang 10 taon dito sa Hong Kong, sabi ko ito na ang panahon para mag good naako.

Kahit paano, may ipon na ako, may maliliit na bahay, at mayayos naman ang trabaho ng mister ko.

Kaya po ako sumulat ay gusto kong ibahagi ang mga tips sa mga kababayan nating nangangamuhan dito, lalo na yung mga baguhang pa lang na nangangap kung ano ang dapat nilang gawin.

Ang una kong tip ay maging tapat sa mga amo nila. Ibig sabihin nito, gampanan ng maigi ang kanilang

mga tungkulin. Kung may bumabagbag sa kanila sa kanilang trabaho sa bahay ng kanilang amo, kausapin nila ang kanilang amo at ipaalam ito.

Ikalawa, basahin nang maigi ang kontratang pinirahan nila. Pag-aralan ito. Tandaan na hindi maarang magtrabaho ang isang domestic helper sa labas ng bahay ng amo nila.

Ikatlo, bigyan ng panahon ang mga makabuluhang seminar na maaring puntahan. Maraming mga pagtitipon sa ating konsulado at sa POLO kung saan maari tayong matuto. Mainam na imbes na ubusin ang panahon sa kung saan sana lamang sa araw ng

anning holiday, doon na lamang tayo kung saan iwas disgrasya at gulo.

Ikaapat ay ang matutong mag-pon. Hindi habambuhay tayong malakas at nandito sa Hong Kong. Matalaga na may pera tayo upang maging komportable naman ang bahay natin sa pagbalik natin sa Pilipinas.

Natutuwa po ako na makakaui na ako at makakapiling ko na ang aking pamilya sa 2017. Ang hangad ko ay mapabuti ang kalagayan ng ating mga kababayan dito sa Hong Kong.

*Nagpapasalamat,
Angel T.*

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Ang boypren ni Lea

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

MASAYAHIN si Lea, dalaga, 33 taong gulang at tubong Quezon. Magaan din ang trabaho niya dito sa Hong Kong.

Malalaki na ang dalawa niyang mga alaga kaya nakatuon na lang ang obligasyon niya sa pagluluto at paglininis ng bahay. Mababait ang mga amo, pati na rin ang mga alaga; kapamilya ang turing sa kanya.

Tulad ng karamihan, nrito tayo sa Hong Kong at nagtrabaho bilang kasambahay para sa ating mga mahal sa buhay.

Handang magtiis para maibigay at matustusan ang pangangailangan ng mga iniwan natin sa Pilipinas na umaasa at naghihintay ng ating padala.

Hindi na namalayan ni Lea na maraming taon na rin pala ang lumipas hanggang sa nawala na siya sa kalendar. Tanggap na niya na napag-iwanan na siya ng panahon.

Hindi na niya naasikaso ang pag-aasawa dahil alam niyang siya lang ang inaaahanan ng pamilya; lalo ngayon na may sakit ang nanay niya at hindi biro ang halaga ng mga gamot na kailangang inumin araw-araw.

Pero dahil na rin sa kakulitan ng mga kaibigan niya, nakiuso si Lea at natutong makipag-chat sa Internet. Nakilala niya si Paeng na nasa Pilipinas. Nagsimula sa pagiging magkaibigan at kalaunan ay naging magka-ibigan ang dalawa. Naging makulay ang mga oras ni Lea.

Dumating na sa punto na kasama na rin si Paeng sa pinapadalhan niya. Kung anu-anong na ang hinihiling nito kahit hindi pa sila nagkikita ng personal, sa webcam lang. Nang magbakasyon si Lea ay nagkita sila at nagkasundong magpakasal.

Sa puntong ito, humingi na ng kung anu-anong luho si Paeng. Humingi rin ito ng perang pampagawa daw ng bahay na titirhan nila pagkatapos ng kasal. Pati pangangailangan ng pamilya ni Paeng ay sa kanya at kinailangan na niyang mang-utang.

Nabaon si Lea sa utang na umabot na sa mahigit HK\$45,000. Hindi na niya ito kayang bayaran kaya para makakuha ng pera ay inaway niya ang amo at nagpa-terminate siya para makhuha ang long service payment.

Kulang pa rin ito na pambayad sa mga utang pero kailangan niyang makaalis sa bahay ng amo para makatakas sa collector at sa mga taong hiniraman niya. Sa ngayon ay nasa Macao si Lea, naghihintay ng visa para sa bago niyang amo. Sana may bahay ngang ipinapagawa ang 'ka-ibigan' niya, at sana siya ang ititira dito matapos ang ipinangkong kasal.

Pasaway si amo

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

NAGMAMADALI lagi si Verna, 33, dalaga at tubong Mindoro, sa paghahanda ng pananghalian para sa dalawa niyang alaga dahil ihahatid pa niya ang bagong lutong pagkain sa paaralan.

Bago mag-alas dose ay dapat makababa na siya ng bahay kasi bibuyahe pa. Kailangan by 12:10 ng tanghali ay mailagay na niya ito sa nakatalagang kariton ng pagkain para sa maliliit na bata, at ang kawani na ng paaralan ang mag-aakyat sa mga silid aralan.

Ang para sa nakatatandang niyang alaga ay kailangan namang maiabot ng 12:20.

Magkalayo ang dalawang paaralan kaya kailangang matantiya ni Verna ang pagitan ng oras nang hindi sya magahol. Ilang taon na rin naman sa araw-araw na ginawa



Nabasag ni amo ang aquarium.

ng Diyos mula Lunes hanggang Biernes na maayos nya itong nagagawa.

Pero isang araw, habang hinihimay niya ang gulay ay may narinig siyang wari ay nabasag na bote. Hindi siya nagkamali; pasigaw siyang tinawag ng among lalaki. Paglapit ni Verna ay nakita niya ang nagkalat na pira-pirasong bahagi ng aquarium.

Kumakalat na rin ang tubig. Nilinis at hinugasan ng amo ang aquarium at ng ibinabalik na ay marahil nabitawan o tumama sa patungan. Kahoy ang sahig nila kaya hindi pwedeng mababad ng matagal dahil mangingitim ang pagitan ng mga kahoy o matutuklap.

Patakong humablot si Verna ng basahang tuwalya, kumuha ng plastic bag at

Bibo lang si ate

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

MARAMI na tayong naririnig, nababasa at nababalitaang mga pangyayari tulad ng pagpapakamatay ng domestic worker, o pananakit sa amo.

Kanya-kanya at sari-saring haka-haka ang sinasabi ng bawat-baka pinagsamantalahan, o kaya'y may matinding problema at walang napagsabihan kaya hindi na nakayanan.

Naalarmar tuloy si Samantha nang makita niyang nagsasalita mag-isa ang isang kapwa Pinay sa paaralan na pinapasukan ng kaniyang alaga.

Pinagsmasdan niya kung naka-earphone at baka may kausap lang sa telefono, pero wala naman siyang nakita. Maya-maya,

tumahimik ito at bigla na lang humagul-gol.

Hindi nakatiis si Samantha; nilapitan niya at tinanong kung anong nangyari dito. Sinabi ng babae na malaki na raw pala ang pinsalang nagagawa niya sa mga taong nakakasalamuha niya at lalo na sa pagkatao niya.

Napagsabihan na raw siya na unethical. Ang tawag daw sa kanya ay 'hyper-active' o 'bibo-malikot'.

Nung bata pa raw siya ay hindi siya mapa-upo ng matagal sa isang tabi at ang lagi siyang maraming tanong. Kaya nga raw nung nag-aaral pa, siya lagi ang ipinapadala sa labas kapag pangangailangan ng tutulong sa mga okasyon ng paaralan para lang huwag ma-istorbo ang mga kaklase sa isasagot.

pansin ko nga kasi tuloy-tuloy at ang haba na sinabi at ikinuwento."

Maya-maya may lumapit na banyagang babae na kanina pa pala nagmamasid sa isang tabi.

Kinausap siya at nagpasilala na isa raw sa tauhan ng organisasyon na tumutulong sa mga taong may emotional problem at depressed.

Ang nakatawag raw ng kuryusidad ni Samantha ay ang sinabi ng banyaga na "be aware of what you are if you are with someone in a higher level than you and be aware of who you are if you are with someone in the same status. You must know where you should be."

Napansin ni Samantha na may iniabot na maliit na papel ang banyaga sa Filipina.



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Reel Time documentary wins international grand prize

GMA Network gave honor to Philippines anew as its flagship documentary program Reel Time won the Grand Prize at this year's Asia-Pacific Child Rights Awards for its documentary "Isinulat sa Tubig."

The network also earned a nomination from the Asia Rainbow TV Awards for "Naku, Boss Ko!"

"Isinulat sa Tubig" is an eye-opening documentary about a group of children who needs to cross a part of an ocean and trek up a mountain just to reach their schools. It was written and directed by Executive Producer Jayson Bernard Santos.

"We are very much overwhelmed by Reel Time's third recognition from the Asia-Pacific Child Rights Award. The documentary "Isinulat sa Tubig" resulted in a collaboration among educators from Matnog in the Province of Sorsogon and viewers who sent donations after watching the documentary. The audience's active participation in starting small but mean-

ingful reforms in the education of the students is the best reward we received for this story," said Santos, who received the award from Andrew Brown of UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office in a ceremony held in Bali, Indonesia last October 24.

The Asia-Pacific Child Rights Award for Television by Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the most prominent distinction in Asia and the Pacific that recognizes the efforts of broadcasters and producers in pursuing high quality children's programming and better coverage of issues affecting children.

For five years in a row, documentary programs from GMA Public Affairs have won the Asia-Pacific Child Rights Award. Reel Time took home three of these, while I-Witness and Front Row won in 2012 and 2014, respectively.

Bubble Gang pays tribute to Philippine comedy icons

PHILIPPINE TV's longest-running comedy show, Bubble Gang, celebrates its 21st anniversary this year. Indeed, the laughter never stops for them.

The show remains to be a favorite among viewers for its unique, amusing and extraordinary parodies, sketches and gags.

Kapuso comedy genius and Bubble Gang's Creative Director Michael V. said that he considers their audience as their motivation and inspiration.

"Palagi kong sinasabi sa mga kasamahan ko dito na binabalik ko lang yung success ng show—yung glory and staying power namin—sa mga manunuod. Kasi for me, maganda yung relationship ng Bubble Gang sa audience," Michael V. said.

"We get inspiration from them Kum-baga kung wala yung society, hindi kami makakagawa ng parody, sketches, and jokes na about sa society. And we're glad na-a-appreciate naman ng mga nakakapanood yun," he added.

In line with their anniversary celebration, the show pays tribute to 21 comedic gems of Philippine cinema and television by performing some of their famous sketches and scenes dubbed as 21 GANG Salute on December 2.

Catch Bubble Gang's Michael V., to-



MICHAEL V.

gether with Andrea Torres, Antonio Aquitania, Arra San Agustin, Arny Ross, Betong Sumaya, Boy 2 Quizon, Chariz Solomon, Denise Barbacena, Diego Llorico, Jackie Rice, Jak Roberto, James Macasero, Jan Manual, Juancho Trivino, Kim Domingo, Mikael Daez, Myka Flores,

Paolo Contis, RJ Padilla, Rodfil Obeso, Sef Cadayona and Valeen Montenegro.

Get the latest updates of Bubble Gang from their official website of GMA Network www.gmanetwork.com and official Facebook page www.facebook.com/GMANetwork.

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GMA shows improve lead over rivals

GMA Network further increased its nationwide ratings lead over rival ABS-CBN, according to data from the industry's widely trusted ratings service provider, Nielsen TV Audience Measurement.

From October 13 to November 16 (with November 13 to 16 based on overnight data), GMA scored a total day people audience share of 40.1 percent, up 4.3 points from ABS-CBN's 35.8 percent in National Urban Television Audience Measurement (NUTAM) and bested competition across all dayparts including the hotly contested primetime block.

Kapuso primetime programs surged ahead of competition and consisted majority (7 out of 10) of the top programs in National Urban Philippines.

As it continues to unveil new twists and characters, Encantadia made its way into the top of the list of most-watched programs for NUTAM, posting a people rating of 12.8 percent. The Kapuso teleserye is now the highest-rating primetime series in the country, outranking all shows from the rival network.

The Dingdong Dantes-starrer Alyas Robin Hood (11.4 percent) also continued to drive GMA's strong ratings on prime-time, drawing audiences with its relatable and timely plot at 3rd place.

Known for its trademark Serbisyong



Encantadia's main characters

Tooto, the Network's flagship newscast 24 Oras, meanwhile, emerged as the number one primetime news program during the same period with a people rating of 10.9 percent, besting the competing network's newscast.

It is tied with consistent top rater Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho (KMJS) at the 4th and 5th place.

The Kapuso Network also remained ahead on weekends as all-time favorites Magpakailanman (10.7 percent) and Pepito Manaloto (10.6 percent) occupied the 6th and 7th place, leading their counterpart shows. Completing the list of Kapuso programs in the top 10 list is Hay Bahay! (9.4 percent).

Also garnering top ratings in NUTAM are Tsuperhero (9.3 percent), Ismol Familiy (9.1 percent), 24 Oras Weekend (8.9

percent), Eat Bulaga (7.2 percent), Wowowin (7 percent), Sunday PinaSaya (6.8 percent), Someone to Watch Over Me (6.8 percent), Imbestigador (6.8 percent), and Superstar Duets (6.2 percent).

Viewers from across the country tuned in to GMA last November 6 to witness Senator Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao reclaim the WBO Welterweight title from his opponent Jessie Vargas via "Resurgence: Pacquiao versus Vargas."

Per Nielsen data, the bout which aired exclusively on GMA on Philippine free TV registered a 15.8 percent people rating in National Urban Philippines, catapulting it to the top of the list of most-watched programs and specials in the covered period. In Urban Luzon, GMA Network remained undefeated.

Rufa Mae ikinasal na

By Cristy Kasilag

LUBOS ang kasiyahan ng comedienne na si Rufa Mae Quinto nuong ika-25 ng Nobyembre nang ikinasal siya sa kanyang fiancé na si Trevor Magallanes.

Naganap ang kasalan dalawang buwan bago inaaahang manganak si Rufa Mae

sa una nilang anak ni Trevor. Babae raw ang magiging panganay nilang anak na ang magiging pangalan ay Alexandria.

Mas matanda si Rufa Mae ng 10 taon kay Trevor, na isang Filipino-American financial analyst. Si Rufa Mae ay 39 anyos na samantala ang kanyang asawa ay 29 taong gulang lamang.

Itinaon nila ang kasal sa petsa na ika-25 ng Nobyembre dahil ang susunod na araw ay kaarawan ni Trevor. Magkakataon na Thanksgiving din ito sa US.

Ang dapat nga daw ay nuong ika-3 ng Pebrero pa sila kinasal sa San Francisco, California pero ang sabi ni Trevor ay gusto niyang bigyan ng magandang kasal si

Rufa Mae.

Masaya, nakakatawa at may mga na-kakaiyak na kaganapan sa kasal ng bagong Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Magallanes.

Isang puting vintage na kotse ang naghatiid kay Rufa Mae sa Blue Leaf Cosmopolitan sa Libis, Quezon City kung saan ginanap ang kanilang pag-iisang dib-

dib. Si Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista ang nag officiate ng kasal.

May mga naiyak nang pagbukas ng pinto at nakita ng mga bisita at myembro ng pamilya na naglalakad si Rufa Mae. Makikita sa kanyang maniningna mukha ang kasiyahan na sa wakas ay ikakasal na siya.

**Bad boy
Baron
umeksena uli**

By Cristy Kasilag

NASA balita na naman ang aktor na si Baron Geisler.

Ito ay dahil may ginawang kababuyan ang 34-anyos na sana ay magaling na aktor sa kapwa niyang artista na si Ping Medina.

At sa laban na ito ay hindi lamang si Ping ang kanyang nakaaway, kundi pati ang direktor na si Arlyn dela Cruz, ang pinuno ng Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), at ang Professional Artist Managers, Inc. (PAMI).

Ang kwento ay magkasama si Ping at Baron na gumagawa ng pelikula na "Bubog". Nag-usap pa nga daw sila at sinabihan ni Ping ang kapwa aktor na kung maari ay tumigil na sa pag-inom ng alak.

Humingi raw si Baron ng pera kay Ping na nagbigay ng P200 sa pag-aakala na gagamitin ito para bumili ng pagkain. Nagulat na lang si Ping ng nakita itong may dalang beer.

Sa isang eksena, na kinunan sa dilim, ay nakagapos ang kamay ni Ping at may tape ang kanyang bibig dahil sa ginagawang pelikula ay biktima siya ng extrajudicial killing (EJK). Bigla daw may binulong si Baron sa kanya na, "May gagawin ako sa yo Ping ha. Sana wag ka magalit."

Nagulat na lang daw si Ping nung ini-hian siya ni Baron. Sa galit ay Ping ay nasuntok niya ang pader ng container van.

Ang kwento ni Ping ang dapat na gagawin lang daw ni Baron ay tatanggalin ang tape sa kanyang bibig para pakinggan ang pag hingi ng tawad ni Ping at aalis na ito, habang tatlo nitong goons ay maiwian.

Pero hindi ganun ang nangyari.

Ang depensa ni Baron ay nagpaalam siya kay Ping at Direk Arlyn kung ano ang gagawin niya at naka record daw yun dahil may mga kamera sa set, pwera na lang daw kung binura nila ito.



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Horoscope



Capricorn December 22 to January 19

Sa bawat pagsubok ay tiyak na may kalunasan. Huwag ng malumbay at malalampasan mo rin ang lahat ng mga iyan. Subukan mong paniwalaan ang iyong kutob, tiyak na hindi ka maliligaw.



Aquarius January 20 to February 18

Siguraduhin mong tama ang hinala bago ka magbintang upang hindi mapaaaway. Ang pagtulong sa kapwa ay tunay na banal na gawain. Makararamdam ka ng pananamlay kaya magpahinga muna mula.



Pisces February 19 to March 20

Sikaping maging maagap sa pagtupad ng mga gawain upang maiwasan ang pagmamadali. Isang pagsubok ang iyong daraanan na kakailanganin ang iyong karunungan at ingat.



Aries March 21 to April 19

Piliin ang mga bagay na kailangan nang i-let go upang lumuwag ang kalooban. Isang di inaaasahang panauhin ang darating na kukumpleto sa iyong araw. Manalangin na ang matutuklasan ay magdudulot ng saya.



Taurus April 20 to May 20

Makakasalamuha mo ang isang taong sikat na magiging kaibigan mo. Isa ito sa mga pinakamasayang Pasko sa iyong buhay dahil makatatanggap ka ng isang regalang hindi mo inaasahan. Maging optimistic sa bagong taon.



Gemini May 21 to June 20

Huwag mag-alinlangan na gamitin ang iyong isip upang makaahon sa hirap. May oportunidad na darating, huwag mo itong palampasin. Patunayan na kaya mong tumayo sa sariling paa. Magpakabusog sa pagmamahal ng pamilya.



Cancer June 21 to July 22

Magdiwang at magpasalamat sa Diyos sa lahat ng biyayang nakamit at kalimutan ang kalungkutan. Huwag aksayahan ang pera sa walang kwentang bagay.



Leo July 23 to August 22

Kung magiging positibo ang pananaw, magsisimula ng maayos ang takbo ng buhay. Mahalagang pag-usapan kaagad kung malabot na ang relasyon.



Virgo August 23 to September 22

Marami kang taong makakasalamuha na magdudulot sa iyo ng paribagong sigla. Sila ang makakatulong mo sa pag-unlad kaya't makisama nang mabuti. Huwag ka ma-guilty dahil tama lang ang naging desisyon mo. Manindigan dahil nasa katwiran ka.



Libra September 23 to October 22

Ibayong kaligayahan ang mararamdam. Siguraduhing marami at kumpleto ang pagkaing inihanda dahil lulusob ang iyong mga kaibigan. Maging mapamaraan sa pakikitungo sa mga taong makakausap. Makakamit mo rin ang ninanais.



Scorpio October 23 to November 21

Magdiwang at magpasalamat sa Diyos sa lahat ng biyayang natatanggap. Huwag na huwag ibibigay ang sarili hangga't hindi nakakasal, ikaw rin ang magsisisi. Huwag aksayahan ang pera sa walang kwentang bagay.



Sagittarius November 22 to December 21

Alisin muna pride sa iyong katawan upang makapag-usap kayo ng ng nakasamaan ng loob. Magtipid, maging masinop. Magiging masaya ang Paskong ito dahil sa pagbisita ng importanteng tao.

What's Cooking?

Nothing beats a meal that's both delicious and nutritious. And that's exactly what we're giving you for this issue. Kitchen-fanatics, behold our very own recipe for Baked Baby Potatoes. This dish will surely leave you full, satisfied, and most of all, healthy! Happy cooking!

Ingredients:

½ kg baby potatoes, scrubbed

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 Tbsp. parsley, minced

1/8 cup sunflower oil

Salt and pepper to taste

A dash of paprika

Procedure:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Put the potatoes in a large bowl. Mix with garlic,

parsley, paprika, and sunflower oil until well coated and blended.

Sprinkle with salt and pepper and toss to coat.

Bake until tender and golden for about 50 minutes.

Serve hot or warm.



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

Mag-asawang nag-aaway. Sinampal ni misis si mister.

Misis: Sino si Jasmine na tinawag mo sa panaginip mo?

Mister: Yung kabayong bet ko sa karera! Ano ka ba naman!

Kinabukasan, sinampal ulit ni misis si mister.

Mister: O bakit na naman??

Misis: Tumawag kabayo mo!

May apat na pari na sakay ng tren papuntang probinsya. Malayo ang lakbayin kaya naisipan nilang magsabihan ng sikreto.

Pari 1: Ang sikreto ko ay may syota akong GRO.

Pari 2: Ako naman ay pumupunta sa beerhouse gabi-gabi.

Pari 3: Ang sikreto ko ay nagnanakaw ako sa kaban ng simbahan at nagsusugal.

Pari 1,2,3 (nakatingin kay Pari 4): Ikaw?

Pari 4: Ang sikreto ko TSISMOSO AKO!

Misis: Honey luma na ang mga bra ko. Bili mo ako ng bago.

Mister: Huwag na honey, malit naman yang boobs mo eh sayang lang ang pera.

Misis: Eh, bakit ikaw naka brief ka? Eh, di sinayang mo lang ang pera!



Teacher: Use KITCHEN and CURTAIN in a sentence.

Barok: Easy ma'am! Wag mo akong CURTAIN masa KITCHEN.

Teacher: Ano?? Dyaskeng bata! Use SCHOOLING in a sentence.

Barok: Kring, kring (phone rings)... Hello? Who SCHOOLING?

Jinggoy: Dad, pang ilang Tirso Cruz na si Tirso Cruz III?

Erap: (Natawa) Trick question ba yan anak? Eh, di pang-lima, kaya nga PIP ang tawag sa kanya, di ba?

Pasyente: Doc takot ako sa bunot eh!

Dentista: Heto gamot pampalakas ng loob.

Pasyente: (uminom ng gamot)

Dentista: Matapang ka na ba?

Pasyente: Oo doc, 'pag may gumalaw sa ngipin ko gugulpihin ko!

Russian: We are first to step on Mars.

American: We are first to step on the moon.

Russian and American: How About you Mr. Erap, What have you DONE?

Erap: Me? I'm first to step on the SUN!

Russian and American: But, we can't go to the Sun, it's too hot!

Erap: (Naiinis pa) What do you think of me idiot? WE GO THERE AT NIGHT!

Tanga 1: Ano bang hinahanap mo diyan sa supot ng 3-in-1 coffee? Kanina ka pa silip nang silip diyan.

Tanga 2: Hinahanap ko yung libreng asukal. Nakasulat kasi sa karton "SUGAR FREE."

Bagong kasal si Pancho at Lala.

Lala: Honey, malapit na tayong maging tatlo sa bahay na ito.

Pancho: Talaga?? Honey pinasaya mo ako ng todo sa balita mo!

Lala: Oo, dito na titira ang nanay ko.

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		
36					37				
38					39				

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

1 Walang kibo Jacinto;

boldstar

39 Salmo

PABABA

1 Di makapaniwala

2 Ka-partner ng kanin

3 Yero

4 Aba

5 Aliwan

6 Bahagyang bukas

7 Siguro

8 Taguri kay Rizal

9 Leksiyon

10 Question; Tagalog

17 Sikat

19 Apelyidong intsik

20 Palayaw ni Christian

29 Bawat

30 Bawal

31 Gawa ng bugbog

33 Buti

35 Din

Answer to last puzzle

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



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