

HONG KONG NEWS

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FDH New Year's Wish:

'11 hours of continuous rest'



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Revelers pose and take photos at the giant statue of a snowman set up at the 1881 Heritage shopping centre in Tsim Sha Tsui.

By Philip C. Tubeza

MARKING International Migrants Day, foreign domestic workers submitted a petition, with more than 28,000 signatures, to the government asking for standardized working hours, particularly "11 hours of

uninterrupted rest."

Eman Villanueva, chair of Bayan Hong Kong and Macau, said they turned over the petition to the office of Hong Kong Chief Executive C.Y. Leung during the rally in Admiralty on December 18.

"We are asking the government to give

us 11 hours of uninterrupted rest," Villanueva said in an interview.

"So, instead of defining our working hours, we are asking that the government should just ensure that we have several hours of uninterrupted rest. This is more workable because we live with our em-

ployers," he added.

The signatories to the petition included migrant workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and Nepal.

They joined the rally after marching

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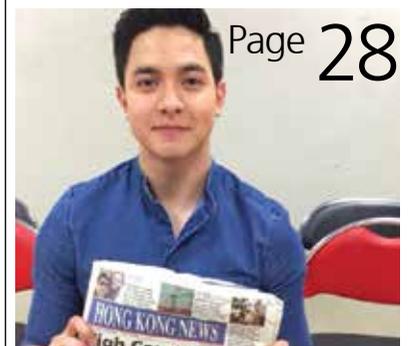


A 75-year-old Pinay is arrested for trying to withdraw nearly \$400M using fake bank documents.



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Let us look back at the unforgettable moments of 2016 that made it historic not just for Filipinos here in HK but also around the world.



Page 28

Heartthrob Alden Richards is overwhelmed by the warm welcome given to him by Hong Kong OFWs.

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P2K SSS pension hike this year

By Maia Lopez

THE Social Security System (SSS) expects Congress to give its approval that would pave the way for the release of the P2,000 increase this year.

Social Security Commission (SSC) Chair Amado D. Valdez said that the release of the initial P1,000 this month required congressional approval, adding that pensions are disbursed to banks a month prior to their scheduled release.

Valdez said that a Commission Resolution shall then be sent to Malacañang, for the formal approval of President Rodrigo R. Duterte, before SSS can implement the pension hike.

"SSS is also guided by the Department of Finance in ensuring that the implementation of the proposed pension increase will not drive the fund to the brink of bankruptcy," Valdez said.

"We are wary of possible criticisms for our support for the pension increase, and we don't want to be seen as irresponsible,"



SSS members

he added.

The SSS chair said that Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III was keen on ensuring that SSS funds would last at least until 2039.

SSS funds are currently projected to last until 2042, but granting the entire P2,000 pension increase in 2017 will shorten fund

life to only until 2025.

"Based on our actuarial valuation of the proposed implementation of the initial P1,000 hike, SSS funds are projected to last until 2032," Valdez said.

"However, we are optimistic in adding more years to our fund life, making it last until 2050 by 2022 should SSS succeed in the innovations it plans to undertake to shore up its revenues," he added.

Among the early measures targeted by the new SSS management to strengthen revenue intake include investing in infrastructure.

These include investments in toll road and railway projects and securing up to 25 percent of ownership in utility corporations.

The agency has also tightened its moni-

toring of employers' SSS compliance.

The social Security System is also considering possible joint ventures with developers to maximize gains from SSS assets.

Valdez said these assets include its five-hectare property in Quezon City at the corner of EDSA and East Avenue, part of which can be converted to a high-rise building for residential and commercial use.

Valdez also said that the East Avenue development will include a high-rise parking to help ease vehicular in the Efipanio delos santos Avenue (Edsa).

He said that SSS continues to work closely with legislators, whom he credited for acknowledging the rationale behind balancing the need to grant higher pensions with preserving the long-term viability of SSS funds for the benefit of currently-paying members who are future SSS pensioners.

"The legislators have heeded the voice of the people who have been clamoring for the increase in SSS pensions," Valdez said.

The same sentiment is shared by President Duterte, who understands that the current SSS pension amounts are inadequate to meet the financial needs of the country's retirees," he added.

SSS has been consistent in providing better benefits to its members and pensioners while ensuring the sustainability of the fund.

Tourist arrested for trying to withdraw \$388M

By Philip C. Tubeza

A 75-year-old Filipina was arrested by the police after she tried to withdraw illegally US\$50 million (around HK\$388 million) from Hang Seng Bank.

The tourist, with initials M. I. G., was charged with using a false instrument at the Eastern Magistrates Courts in Sai Wan Ho after she allegedly used forged documents to try to withdraw the large amount of money from the bank.

The Filipina on December 22 asked that she be allowed to post bail, adding that she was willing to post a \$100,000 bail and a surety of \$50,000.

However, Magistrate Jason Wan denied her bail petition due to the seriousness of the charge against her.

M.I.G.'s lawyer said the Filipina was maintaining her right to appear in court again after eight days, on December 30, to file another bail petition.

However, Judge Wan noted that he would again be the presiding judge on December 30 at the Eastern courts but nevertheless set the next hearing in the case on that day.

Meanwhile, the Filipina was remanded in police custody and so she was set to spend Christmas behind prison.

She had reportedly been hospitalized after having a heart attack while in Hong Kong.



Eastern Magistracy

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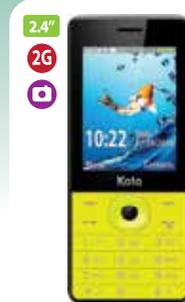
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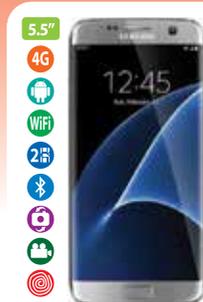
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0% Interest

2 Pinays almost get away with \$1M

By Philip C. Tubeza

A District Court judge sent two Filipinas to prison after they defrauded an elderly Australian businessman of nearly HK\$1 million.

Judge Josiah Lam on December 19 sentenced Lyrma T. Cabe and her accomplice, Olivia A. Ramo, to two years and three months in prison for after they pleaded guilty to fraud and overstaying.

"The fraud perpetrated was not sophisticated. Nevertheless, it was carried out by them with some planning and persistence," said Judge Lam.

The two Filipino women admitted to defrauding a 67-year-old Australian businessman of HK\$940,000 from 2014 to 2015.

"Not a single centavo was recovered and the defendant is not in a position to pay (the victim)," the judge said.

The defendants arrived in Hong Kong in November 2012 as tourists but then they overstayed in the territory.

Judge Lam said a Filipino businessman introduced the defendants to the victim. The businessman told the victim that the women were processing an inheritance claim with the Hong Kong and Shanghai

Banking Corp. (HSBC).

Cabe was supposed to be the legal heir to a fortune worth \$25 million that was deposited in the bank.

"(She) produced documents to substantiate the false claims," Judge Lam said.

The businessman then told the Australian that he was "funding" Cabe because she "required money to process the claim."

But in May 2014, the Filipino businessman informed the victim that he was having some financial difficulties and so the victim decided to finance the women to follow up the supposed inheritance.

"(The victim) believed the inheritance money story and started financing (Cabe)," Judge Lam said.

From May 2014 to October 2015, the Australian gave HK\$862,370 and US\$11,000 to the defendants. They allegedly promised him HK\$4 million, and increased it later to \$6 million, if they get the "\$25 million inheritance" from HSBC.

The Australian later realized that he had



FDHs rest at the HSBC headquarters in Central

fallen victim to a scam and reported the case to the police, who arrested the defendants on Nov. 5, 2015.

Cabe, 45, was reportedly a former Bureau of Immigration employee in Manila. She claimed that perpetrated the scam because she was "pressed for money" to

support her family.

Ramo, 40, is separated from her husband and has four children, aged 12 to 16.

She claimed that that she did not know about the scam until two weeks after arriving in Hong Kong. The judge did not believe her.

'Expedite case vs repeat offender'

By Philip C. Tubeza

A judge in Sai Wan ho has ordered prosecutors to expedite the case against a Filipino who again got involved in a theft case.

Eastern Courts Presiding Magistrate Joseph To Ho-shing on December 16 ordered government lawyers to expedite the case against defendant R. Delos Reyes, who was accused of shop theft.

"I'm a little concerned about the case, given the defendant will have to be put in custody," Judge To said.

The magistrate raised his concern be-

cause Delos Reyes was already in jail for more than a week but there was still no formal charge against him.

The Filipino was arrested on December 8 after he was allegedly caught on the spot stealing from a store.

But on December 16, or a week later, the police had yet to finish the investigation and a prosecutor asked the court to postpone taking his plea.

"The police still have to analyze the CCTV footage and check the number of stolen items," the government lawyer said.

The judge responded: "They already

had more than a week to do so."

Judge To also asked the prosecutor why Delos Reyes remained in custody, and not released on bail, since there were still no formal charges against him.

The prosecutor explained that the Filipino was a repeat offender" and that he could not provide a permanent address here in Hong Kong. She also said that Delos Reyes did not apply for bail.

Judge To adjourned the case to December 23 but reminded the prosecution to be ready with the formal charges so that Delos Reyes could give his plea.

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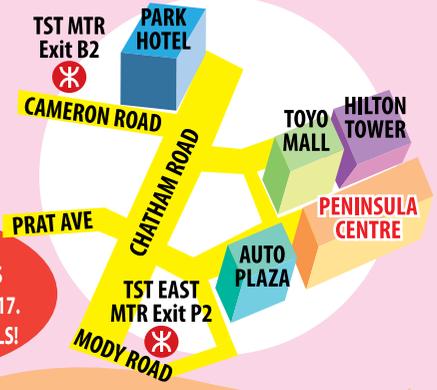
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MTR line to Ocean Park opens

THE MTR network was set to open its newest line on December 28 which will extend the rail network to Hong Kong Island's Southern District, with the opening of the South Island Line.

Upon the commissioning of the South Island line, the convenience of railway service will reach all 18 districts in Hong Kong.

The South Island Line is a 7-kilometre medium capacity rail line connecting South Horizons Station and Admiralty Station with intermediate stations at Ocean Park, Wong Chuk Hang and Lei Tung.

The new line is expected to serve the 350,000 people living and working in those areas. Construction works for the project commenced in 2011.

An official ceremony was held at Ocean Park Station on December 19 to celebrate the completion of the project with HK Chief Executive C Y Leung as guest of honor.

The South Island Line will connect the Southern District to the existing MTR network at Admiralty Station.

Train rides from Ocean Park Station and

South Horizons Station to Admiralty Station will only take about 4 minutes and 11 minutes respectively, allowing residents and visitors to save a considerable amount of travelling time.

"The Southern District has always relied on road traffic to connect with other parts of Hong Kong, and traffic congestion has been an issue affecting residents. When the new line opens, commuters will have the option of travelling on the MTR network with reduced journey times and seamless connections with other MTR lines," said Frederick Ma, MTR Corporation chair.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local communities for their patience and support during the construction phase. In addition to providing a convenient mode of transport, the provision of a number of pedestrian facilities which were constructed as Government entrusted works will enhance connectivity in the vicinity of the stations to the benefit of the local community," he said.

"The convenient station access will allow members of the public to get around the neighbourhood areas more easily by making use of the lifts and walkways in



Ocean Park

the unpaid areas of the stations," he added.

The extended Admiralty Station will be the interchange station for the South Island Line and the existing Tsuen Wan Line and Island Line, as well as the future Shatin to Central Link.

Passengers may conveniently reach the South Island Line platforms guided

by eye-catching directional signs in light green colour.

Meanwhile, passengers travelling from the Southern District only need to follow the red and blue directional signs to interchange with the Tsuen Wan Line and Island Line respectively.

Prior to the opening of the South Island

Line, the four new stations in the Southern District, namely Ocean Park, Wong Chuk Hang, Lei Tung and South Horizons stations, as well as the extended part of Admiralty Station was opened to the public from 10 am to 2 pm on December 24.

The MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world's leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency.

In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates nine commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which more than 5.5 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day.

Another 5 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia.

In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development

Kutis artista at mahubog na katawan nakamit ng OFW

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

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

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

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

(Article provided by: LT)



Before After

Belly Ann Soriano

Basta driver, sweet lover?

(Narito ang sulat ng isang Pinay sa Canada na iniwan ng asawa para balikang ang kabit dito sa Hong Kong)

Sumulat po ako para humingi ng tulong na maiparating sa mga kababaihan at kalalagihan na nagtatrabaho sa HK.

Kasalukuyan akong nasa Canada as permanent resident. Nagcross country from Hong Kong. Nagtrabaho din ang aking asawa sa HK as driver since 2012 hanggang nakuha ko siya nitong 2016.

Nag-antay ako ng limang taon bago ko sila nakuha ng anak ko. Nagkaroon ng ibat-ibang babae ang aking asawa habang nagtatrabaho siya diyan.

Tinanggap ko ang lahat mabuo lang ang pamilya namin. Ang masakit, pagdating niya dito at makuha niya ang PR card niya tuwing may tampuhan kami, ang panakot niya uwi siya.

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OFWs want OEC abolished totally

By Philip C. Tubeza

SAYING it was “nuisance” even for the consulate staff, members of a migrants’ rights group picketed the Philippine Consulate General on December 18 and called for the abolition of the overseas employment certificate (OEC).

Eman Villanueva, a leader of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-Migrante), said the OEC was no longer needed since Filipino domestic workers had “so many verified and authenticated documents” proving their legitimate employment.

“Sa aming pagtingin, napakaraming pamamaraan para mapatunayan ang pagiging OFW. Nandiyan ang kontrata at ang Hong Kong ID. Lahat ng kontrata ay dumaan sa pagproproso ng Philippine consulate,” Villanueva said during the picket.

“Dumaan din sa POEA (Philippine Overseas Employment Administration) kaya hindi namin maintindihan bakit ipinagpipilitan pa rin ng POEA na wag alisin itong OEC,” he added.

Villanueva said the long lines for OEC



UNIFIL members protest outside the consulate on Dec. 18

continue despite the implementation of the BM Online system.

“Nakakaawa ang ating mga kababayan na minsan na lang magbabakasyon sa loob ng isa o dalawang taon e pahihirapan pa bago makauwi,” Villanueva said.

Villanueva said even consulate staff who should be doing jobs in other sections of the consulate are assigned to handle the OEC counters.

“Malinaw na pumipila ang libo-libo nating mga kababayan. Pati yung mga tauhan ng consulate na may ginagawang (iba sana) to assist ang ating mga kababayan, hindi na rin nila nagagampanan yun kasi nilagay sa counter ng OEC,” Villanueva said.

“So, hindi lamang po ito perwisyo sa ating mga kababayan na dagdag itong singilin, perwisyo rin ito kahit sa mga em-

pleyado ng konsulado,” he said.

“Kaya kung tutuusin, kahit kanino hindi ito paborable maliban siguro sa POEA na siyang tumatanggap ng bayad at koleksyon dito sa OEC,” he added.

Villanueva said that they are calling for the OEC’s total abolition and not just for exemptions.

He said the BM Online has not resolved the problem because OFWs are still made to pay \$20 when they register.

“May verification na nga, may authentication pa. Ano ba ang pinakita ng experience sa BM Online? Ganun pa rin—pila at may bayad pa rin,” he added.

Villanueva said the problem with the OEC was not limited only to OFWs in Hong Kong.

“Hindi lang yan dito sa Hong Kong pero para sa ibang ring bansa kasi hindi na sila iniisyuhan ng OEC sa mga embassy at consulate doon,” Villanueva said.

“Talagang automatic idedirect sila sa regional offices or main office ng POEA. Anong mangyayari niyan?,” he said.

“Yung kanilang maiksing bakasyon, mababawasan para lang kumuha ng OEC,” he added.

FDH denies stealing bracelet

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A Filipino domestic helper has been charged with stealing a gold bracelet from her employer in North Point.

Lailane R. B. pleaded not guilty to the charge of theft at the Eastern Magistracy on December 21.

Her Chinese employer testified in court that on October 3, she noticed that two of her tea cups were missing. When she asked Lailane about the tea cups, the latter said she did not know. This then prompted the employer to search the defendant’s room.

Then she saw a bag hanging from the door knob of the room. When she inspected it she found an item resembling that of a cup, but it was a “greenish blue cup”, and not the tea cups that she was looking for.

Upon further inspection, inside the cup, she found a paper cup, which contained fruit seeds and some paper scraps. When the contents of the paper cup spilled out on the bed, the employer said she found something that should not have been there.

“Suddenly, I felt so sad. I found something that I didn’t expect to find,” she said after telling the court that she found her golden bracelet hidden with the contents of the paper. The employer then called the police.

Under cross-examination, however, the employer, who was not working, admitted that on October 1, she asked the defendant about a missing plate. The helper allegedly said that she did not know and that she would look at it. On the same day, she said she took out her golden bracelet from her safe because she would be dining at home with one of her friends.

The following day, with Lailane still unable to produce the missing plate, the employer allegedly told the former to replace the plate and go to the mall “Lane Crawford” because that same plate could be bought there. On October 3, however, with Lailane replacing the plate with a similar-looking one from Wing On mall, the employer was allegedly furious with her helper.

The defense said the employer then accused the defendant of taking her golden bracelet.

“Let’s see who the police will believe,” the defense lawyer quoted the employer as allegedly saying.

The lawyer also said that during a conciliation meeting between the helper and the employer, the latter never made any complaint about the missing bracelet. The employer said that “no such thing happened.”

The case is adjourned to Jan. 17.

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Naisip din niyang gamitin ito paguwi niya sa Pilipinas dahil medyo nais niyang laging maging mapusok ang asawa niya sa kaniya. Tulad ng karanasan ng kaibigan na tuwing gamit daw itong pabango ay halos puyat daw silang mag-asawa, hahahaha ang tawa naming tuwing paguusapan ang huling bakasyon ng kaibigan gamit ito.

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hintayin ang kaibigan, nagkataon na punuan at nakishare sa table niya ang guwapong Chinese. Habang kumakain ay napuna niyang panay ang sulyap nito sa kaniya at tila may nilalanghap. Hanggang sa magpaalam ito at sambitin na, “lengloi, smell good perfume,” napangiti siya. Saka niya naalala na gamit ang seksuwal perfume at nasambit sa sariling epektibo talaga.

Pagkauwi sa Pilipinas ay saka niya muling napatunayan na sobrang effective dahil sa unang gabi pa lang daw grabe ang pagkagiliw ng asawa sa kaniya. Napapangiti siya kinabukasan dahil naaalala ang mga kuwentuhan nila ng kaibigan tungkol sa pabango.



Ashley Aurellano

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Overstaying FDH gets 2 years for stealing

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

AN overstaying former domestic worker has been sentenced to two years imprisonment after pleading guilty to stealing jewels including diamond earrings, two bracelets, a silver necklace, two rings and three watches valued at almost \$500,000.

In sentencing Jill Matulin, District Court Judge David John Dufton on December 16 said her guilty plea reduces to two years the starting point of three years of imprisonment for the charge of burglary.

Matulin is also presently serving 10 months of imprisonment imposed in August at the Tsuen Wan Magistracy for offenses of theft and overstaying.

"The offenses are entirely separate and distinct. The theft was committed one year after the burglary and you had already overstayed over one year before committing the burglary. Consecutive sentences are therefore appropriate.

"You are convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment with one year and 10 months consecutive and two months concurrent to the sentence you are now serving," Judge Dufton said.

Matulin was charged with burglary for taking the jewelry in July from the home of a friend's employer.

The prosecution said that when Matulin went to see her friend and found that the latter was not at home, the defendant entered the home through an open glass door and stole the jewels.

The jewels were then pawned by Mat-

ulin at different pawnshops. Police were able to recover the silver necklace, a gold bracelet, the two rings, and two of the watches from two pawn shops.

In a video interview, Matulin told the police that the diamond earrings, "the

a psychologist that she remained in Hong Kong because the salary as a waitress here was more attractive.

In December 2013, Matulin's husband was terminated from his job and went back to the Philippines, but she then found out that she was pregnant. She then relied on her friends for a place to stay.

"Having been told you needed a lot of money to pay for hospital bills for the birth of the child you became worried. Desperate for money you committed the burglary and pawned the property you stole. Clearly the desperate situation you find yourself in was very much brought about by your overstaying in Hong Kong," Judge Dufton said.

On August 15, 2015, Matulin gave birth to a boy. She is taking care of her son while in custody.

The defendant's lawyer asked Judge Dufton to adopt a lower starting point in sentencing Matulin, citing the offense was "opportunistic" and the "desperate situation" that the Filipino was facing.

However, Judge Dufton said that while some of the property were recovered, the most valuable items - the diamond earrings, and the Cartier watch, were not.

"Notwithstanding the burglary may be described as opportunistic the stealing of the property of substantial value is an aggravating feature of sentence for which the starting point may be increased. However taking into account the apparent desperate situation you found yourself in I do not increase the starting point," Judge Dufton said.



District Court

most valuable" jewelry that the defendant stole, were pawned at a pawn shop on Queen's Road West, but they were unable to find them. Instead, the police found that Matulin pawned five items between March and June this year, but these items were unrelated to the burglary case.

Matulin's lawyer, assigned by the Legal Aid Department, told Judge Dufton that the Filipino came to Hong Kong in 2008 to work as a domestic worker, but lost her job in April 2013.

At the time, Matulin's husband was working in Hong Kong as a driver so she decided to overstay to be with him. Judge Dufton, however, noted that this version was different from what the defendant told

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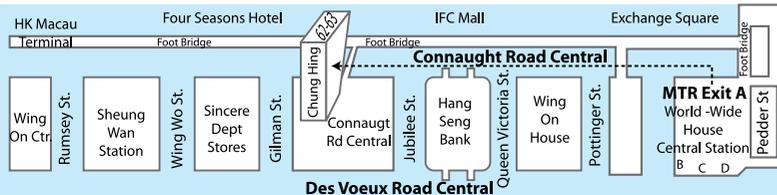
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Pinoy tourist cries after acquittal

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

FILIPINO tourist Marcelo O. cried at the District Court when he heard that he was acquitted of pickpocketing.

Deputy District Court Judge Bina Chainrai said on December 16 that the

prosecution's evidence against the Filipino had "material discrepancies" and it failed to prove Marcelo's guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

"I am unable to resolve these discrepancies and [while the acts of the defendant] were very suspicious, I give him the

benefit of the doubt [and therefore] he is acquitted of the charge," said Judge Chainrai.

Marcelo O. was charged along with another defendant, Jolito M., also known as Alvin B., also a Filipino tourist, for attempting to pick the bag of a Chinese man

while on board the MTR in April.

While Marcelo pleaded not guilty, Jolito pleaded guilty to the charge and is scheduled to be sentenced on January 9. The prosecution also said that there was a deportation order against Jolito. Marcelo, meanwhile, had no previous record in the city.

The prosecution alleged that, on April 25, a police officer observed seven "foreign" persons between platforms A and B of the Prince Edward MTR station paying attention to the belongings of other passengers.

In the first day of Ortega's trial, the prosecution presented the Chinese man,

surnamed Wong, whose bag the defendants allegedly attempted to pick.

The witness said that his bag contained his wallet--which had several HK\$100 bills and-- his HKID, keys, some documents, and an iPad Pro.

Judge Chainrai said that while the first prosecution witness said he saw Marcelo O. in front of him, the police officer who arrested the defendants said Marcelo O. was at the back of the first witness.

The first prosecution witness also said he did not see or hear the two defendants talking to each other, while the police officer said he heard them talking in a language that he could not recognize.

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Concert in the Park 2016

THE Philippine Consulate General, in cooperation with the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and the Hong Kong Musician's Union, held the annual "Concert in the Park" at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza on Dec. 4.

A total of ten bands/groups composed of Filipino musicians based in Hong Kong, as well as Hong Kong musicians and band members from Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba France, Sri Lanka and the US, performed for the audience.

The Concert in the Park is a major annual activity of the PCG under the auspices of Philippines-Hong Kong Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cultural Cooperation signed on February 14, 2003. The MOU aims to foster cultural exchanges especially through arts, culture and education.

The concert was supported by Barkadahan sa Smartone, Pinoy Tayo San Man,



The concert in TST (DFA photo)

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11 Hours...

From page 1

from the Southern Playground in Wan Chai to the Hong Kong Central Government Office in Admiralty.

Villanueva said that it was harder to push for an eight-hour working day for domestic helpers because even the working hours of local have not been standardized.

"That is somewhat an uphill battle because even local workers, after two to three years of public consultations, they have not yet achieved that," he said.

"Instead of legislation (standardizing working hours), they are now saying it should be included in the local workers' contracts. But that means it will be the employers who will determine that," he

added.

He said the 11 hours of uninterrupted rest for FDHs could be made "flexible" so that domestic workers would still be ready to attend to their employers when they go to home from work.

"If the employer comes home at 8 p.m., they could set the domestic worker's uninterrupted rest to start at 9 p.m. until 8 a.m.," Villanueva said.

He said this work arrangement was already being implemented in countries other than Hong Kong.

Villanueva earlier said that they would take legal action should the Hong Kong government exclude them from any regulation that would standardize working hours in the territory.



The protesters marched from Wan Chai to Admiralty.

'Prepare for colder weather'

By Peter Castillo

THE Department of Health (DH) has advised the public to take measures for the expected colder weather in Hong Kong.

The DH noted that when the weather gets cold, elderly may feel unwell due to the lowering of body temperature as a result of their weaker temperature control mechanism and less subcutaneous fat.

"Excessive drop in body temperature can lead to hypothermia. Persons with chronic illnesses such as chronic respiratory illnesses or heart disease are vulnerable to disease aggravation due to cold weather," the DH said.

"Some senior persons may have decreased mobility, which in turn slows down the ability to generate and conserve body heat. Chronic illnesses, including hypertension, diabetes and endocrine disorders, may undermine the health of the elderly and lower their metabolic rate, subsequently causing their body to generate less heat," it added.

The department said the elderly should take note of the weather forecast and wear warm clothing appropriately, including hats, scarves, gloves and socks according to the temperature.

"Consume sufficient food to ensure adequate calorie intake; Perform regular exercises to facilitate blood circulation and heat production; Stay in a warm environ-

ment and avoid prolonged outdoor exposure; Use heaters with care and maintain adequate indoor ventilation," it said.

The DH said elderly people who are unwell should seek medical advice.

"In addition, the public should avoid alcoholic beverages, as alcohol causes blood vessels to dilate and the body would lose heat," the DH said.

"When the weather gets cold, parents should dress babies or young children in appropriate clothing. It is important to keep babies lightly clothed to avoid them getting too hot," it added.

The DH said parents should observe safety measures when putting their children to bed

"Keep the room well ventilated and with comfortable temperature; always place babies on their back to sleep. Babies usually sleep well without a pillow; place babies on a firm and well-fitted mattress to sleep. Avoid soft objects and loose bedding; leave their head, face and arms uncovered during sleep," it said.

The DH said parents should let babies sleep in a cot placed in parents' room and near their bed.

"In addition, members of the public are advised to take precautions to avoid influenza and upper respiratory tract infections. Moreover, food-borne diseases, particularly those linked to hot pot cuisine, are also common in cold weather," it said.

"Ang nase-sense namin ay ayaw talaga nilang isama ang mga migrant domestic workers...Kung sakaling i-exclude nila ang migrant domestic workers, hindi namin inaalang ang posibilidad na mag-take din ng legal action kung sakaling darating sa ganoong punto," he said.

Villanueva said the Hong Kong government had been saying that standardizing

working hours for employees and workers would erode the city's competitiveness.

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

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

According to the UBS' annual "Prices and Earnings" study, workers in Hong Kong spent 50.11 hours a week at the workplace, the longest hours out of the 71 global cities included in the poll.

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

Mga Dayuhang Kasambahay - Rekisito para sa paglilinis sa mga bintanang may pananggalang sa harap

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2. Ako ang Espesyal na Pangkat ng OSHC! Para protektahan ang iyong kaligtasan sa trabaho.....
3. Simula sa Enero 1, 2017, kasama ng Pamantayang Kontrata sa Trabaho ng mga banyagang kasambahay ang isang bagong sugnay tungkol sa paglilinis ng mga bintana na nakaharap sa labas upang pangalagaan ang kaligtasan sa trabaho ng mga dayuhang kasambahay.
4. Iniaatas ng bagong sugnay na, kapag inuutusan ng mga taga-empleyo ang kasambahay na linisin ang labas ng anumang bintana na wala sa unang palapag o tabi ng balkonahe (kung saan makatwirang masasabing ligtas para sa kasambahay ang magtrabaho dito) o sa pinagsasaluhang pasilyo, kailangang gawin ito sa ilalim ng mga sumusunod na kondisyon.
5. Una, ang nililinis na bintana ay nalagyan ng rehas na nakakandado o nakapirme sa paraang hindi mabubuksan ang rehas;
6. Mariing hinihikayat ang mga taga-empleyo na may mga dayuhang kasambahay sa ilalim ng mga kontratang pinirmahan noon o bago 2016 na sundin ang mga hinihinging nabanggit sa itaas upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga dayuhang kasambahay sa trabaho.
7. Pangalawa, walang bahagi ng katawan ng mga dayuhang kasambahay ang ilalabas lampas ng pasamano ng bintana maliban sa mga braso.
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Kasuga-taisha

Nara

By Philip C. Tubeza

“Nahold-up ako ng usa.”

With a smile, I sent this message to a friend after gallivanting across the green expanse of Nara Park.

Nara served as Japan’s capital for around a century some 1,300 years ago and so it has beautiful temples and other historic places.

I was on my way to the Todaiji temple complex, which houses the bronze Daiributsu or the Great Buddha, said to be the largest of its kind in the world.

But before I got there, I came across herds of deer.

Considered by locals to be the messengers of the gods, the deer are allowed to freely roam Nara Park. And for 100 yen,

you can buy biscuits from vendors to feed them. Now feeding the deer in Nara Park is considered to be one of the highlights of a tourist’s visit to Nara. I saw some of them even bowing to other tourists just to get fed.

But some of them can get pushy. While feeding a deer behind a fence, I did not notice one surreptitiously walk up behind me.

I became aware of its presence only after it bit my pant’s back pocket. When I did not pay it any attention, it stepped forward and bit my back pocket again and again.

I swear I heard it say, “This is a stick up, human. Now give me them biscuits.”

To make it stop, I stopped feeding the deer behind the fence and instead gave my

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One of the Ni-o or giant guardian statues at the Nandai-mon.



The Todaiji main hall



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Nara

biscuits to my assailant.

I noticed an elderly Japanese lady, who was apparently filming me with her phone camera, and her husband smile as I quickly walked away from the four-footed bandit.

"What a welcome, Nara," I said to myself, smiling.

After the encounter with the bandit (and messaging my friend about it), I proceeded to the Todaiji. Founded in 745, this temple complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the world's largest wooden building.

But before you get there, make a stop by the Nandai-mon or the Great South Gate, the main temple complex's main gate.

It is the largest temple gate in Japan and houses two giant statues of Ni-o or guardian deities.

They are tall and are as impressive as the Great Buddha in the temple complex's main hall.

For a great elevated view of the city, visit the Nigatsu-do, a sub-temple of Todaiji, which is perched on the slope of a hill to the east of the main temple complex.

To the south of Nigatsu-do is Kasuga-taisha, Nara's most celebrated shrine.

Kasuga is famous for its lanterns which were donated by believers. Don't miss the temple complex's "dark room," which has lighted bronze lanterns.

This room gives a glimpse of what it is like during the Lantern Festival in August and February, when hundreds of lanterns are lighted in honor of the gods.

Now if only they zapped that deer that took my biscuits.



The view from Nigatsu-do sub-temple.



The Great Buddha



A deer wanders in Nara Park.



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CANADA	加拿大		333
CHINA	中國		333
DENMARK	丹麥	151	25
FINLAND	芬蘭		111
FRANCE	法國	277	25
GERMANY	德國	277	25
GREECE	希臘	90	25
GUAM	關島		250
INDIA	印度		208
INDONESIA	印尼	53	41
ISRAEL	以色列	111	20
ITALY	意大利	277	25
JAPAN	日本	277	51
KAZAKHSTAN	哈薩克		25
KUWAIT	科威特		51
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Goodbye, 2016

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE year 2016 brought historic changes around the world, with the United Kingdom deciding to leave the European Union, Donald Trump winning the US presidency, and Rodrigo Duterte becoming the leader of 100 million Filipinos on a promise to put on an end to the drug menace in the Philippines.

Let us look back on the many events that also made the year memorable to Filipinos living here in Hong Kong.

January

THE year started on a good note for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) with financial analysts predicting the exchange rate would remain favorable for OFWs.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist of BDO Unibank, said in our January 1st issue that the US dollar to Philippine peso exchange rate would hover between P46.5 and P48.5.

This prediction became reality especially after President Duterte assumed the Presidency and the US dollar strengthened. As of Dec. 19, the exchange rate stood at P49.97 to a dollar.

At the Immigration Department, nearly 600 foreign domestic helpers were denied working visas because they were job-hopping.

On the other hand, Filipinos mourned the passing of “Master Showman” German “Kuya Germs” Moreno, who died on January 8 due to cardiac arrest. He was 82.

On January 30, comedian Vic Sotto also married actress Pauleen Luna despite their 34-year age gap.

February

THE Chinese New Year brought good cheer to FDHs weary of overcharging after an employment agency in Cheung Sha Wan—Ka Ying Employment Agency—pleaded guilty to overcharging a Filipino helper.

The Labour Department also closed down an employment agency in Tuen Mun—Artellect Limited—also for overcharging a jobseeker.

The Filipino community, however, was saddened after Consul General Bernardita Catalla announced that financial debts had driven three Filipino domestic workers to

commit suicide.

“It’s so easy to get a loan here but we must be careful and think of ourselves because we might end up mired in debt,” Catalla told OFWs in HK.

In the Philippines, it was predicted that the revenue from the fast-growing business process outsourcing (BPO) or call center industry would soon overtake the remittances of OFWs.

March

NEARLY 500 Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong and their kin complained that they had fallen victims to the Emgol-dex scam. According to the victims, they invested up to P36,000 each on the promise of high returns.

The vote-counting machines from the Commission on Elections also began arriving as the Filipino community prepared for the start of the overseas absentee voting for the 2016 presidential elections.

Also arriving in the city was Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre. He replaced Labatt Nenita Garcia, who had gone on sick leave.

April

ELECTION fever started to rise among Filipinos especially after the overseas absentee voting (OAV) began on April 9.

The Philippine Consulate General urged OFWs who were registered to vote to cast their ballot, noting that Hong Kong usually registered one of the highest turnouts in the OAV.

Meanwhile, the Justice Centre, a non-government organization, released a study showing that migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong were vulnerable to forced labor.

However, Consul General Bernardita Catalla said the report did not reflect the general situation of Filipino domestic workers in the former Crown colony.

“I don’t think this refers to Filipinos, Unang-una nga is we have pro-active initiatives here at the Consulate, and I think we are able to extend assistance to those who come to us,” Catalla said.

On the other hand, the Mission for Migrant Workers also conducted a study showing that long working hours, the lack of a private room, and the denial of a 24-hour day off were the top woes of foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong.



ConGen Catalla

“Long working hours topped the labor problem of migrants in 2015 at 83 percent...Two out of five domestic workers reported working for more than 16 hours each while three out of five work for 11 hours to 16 hours daily,” the study said.

The Filipino community also lost Sol Pillas, Migrante International secretary general, and a former domestic worker and community leader who served here in Hong Kong.

May

SUPPORTERS of then Mayor Rodrigo Duterte in Hong Kong put him on top of the vote in the territory, where he garnered 30,277 votes or 65 percent of the total number of votes cast for President.

In the vice presidential race, then Sen. Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. edged out the other hopefuls after getting 25,432 votes.

Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre warned OFWs that financial companies can still run after them if they flee to the Philippines without paying their debts.

“They can’t be sure that (they’ve already escaped their debts). Sometimes, these companies have affiliates in the Philippines,” Dela Torre said.

He also warned OFWs against “third-country recruitment” after getting a growing number of complaints that Emry’s Recruitment Agency was offering non-existent jobs in London.

On May 21, actress Solenn Heussaff married her fiancé Nico Bolzico in Comburg, France.

June

A 37-year-old Filipina was charged in court after she took drugs to abort her baby and then dumped the baby in a trash bin in North Point.

Vice Consul Fatima Guzman-Quintan also said that cancer in the reproductive system was the top cancer among Filipinos in Hong Kong.

“Usually ang cancer diseases ng ating workers dito sa reproductive organs at sa breast. Iyong recently, they were in their 40s to 50s at matagal na silang workers dito,” she said.

Welfare Officer Judith Santos said, on average, around 21 percent of Filipinos hospitalized in Hong Kong have cancer.



President Duterte wins by a landslide in Hong Kong.

As of May 25, there were 67 Filipinos being treated in the city’s hospitals.

In France, actress Jaelyn Jose won the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival for her performance in the film “Ma Rosa.” It was the first time that a Filipina won the best actress award at the prestigious film festival.

July

LABOR Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre suspended Emry’s employment agency for offering non-existent jobs in the United Kingdom and Canada.

A check with the Philippine Embassy in London showed that there were no job orders for the jobs Emry’s was offering, Dela Torre said.

The owner of Emry’s claimed she was also duped by her business partner in the UK. Emry’s was the top provider of Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

At the Labour Department, a spokesman

said overcharging remained the top complaint against employment agencies that supply Hong Kong with foreign domestic workers.

The spokesman said there were 120 complaints filed in 2013 against agencies for overcharging FDHs, 114 in 2014, and 102 in 2015.

Meanwhile, Filipinos in Hong Kong hailed the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration that China had no legal basis to claim “historic rights” over islands in the South China Sea.

August

ON August 9, Former President Fidel Ramos arrived in the territory to hold talks with Chinese officials on how to resolve conflicting claims over the South China Sea.

Six days later, the Labour Department began consultations about proposals to increase the minimum allowable wage for



OFWs fall in line at the Bayanihan Centre to vote.



Filipinos in HK celebrate Independence Day.



FDHs march during Labor Day for standardized working hours.



Bello promises to study a proposal to allow direct hiring.

foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong. UNIFIL-Migrante-HK asked the Labour Department for a \$5,000 monthly minimum wage.

At the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), records showed that there were nearly 5,000 Hong Kong employers included in its watch list.

Labor Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre also said that the consulate would ban employers who “frequently terminate” Filipino domestic workers.

“Pag within a period of one year, for example, ganyan uma-appear ng uma-appear yung pangalan ng employer nay an, i-watch list na rin namin,” Dela Torre said.

In Discovery Bay, a Filipino domestic worker received more than \$400,000 in compensation after she stood up for her rights in an accident with the dog of her employer’s neighbor.

September

LABOR Attaché Jalilo Dela Torre starts

the campaign to ban Filipino domestic worker from cleaning windows of high-rise buildings.

He started the campaign after a Filipina helper fell to her death while cleaning the windows of her employer’s flat on the 49th floor of their building in Tsuen Kwan O.

“I’ve suggested na hindi na namin i-verify ang contracts pag walang exception to the cleaning duties,” Dela Torre said.

In the Philippines, an agency was fined P800,000 after two domestic workers it processed for Hong Kong were made to work in mainland China.

On September 25, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III visited Hong Kong and promised to study the proposal to allow “direct hiring” of FDHs returning to work in HK.

Hans Leo Cacdac, then the head of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, also reminded FDHs that they should pay only around P7,000 for their



FVR visits HK in an attempt to mend ties with China.

skills training before they are deployed abroad.

“Ang sabi ng TESDA, humigit kumulang P7,000 lang dapat ang training costs. Kung merong dormitoryo, humigit kumulang P15,000 kung may board and lodging,” Cacdac said.

In Tsuen Wan, a Filipino domestic worker appeared in court after she was arrested when she received an airmail package from her “friend on Facebook.”

The package contained 200 grams of cocaine.

On September 10, comedian Joy Viado died after she suffered a heart attack. Viado was 57.

October

FILIPINO domestic workers started the month on a good note after the Hong Kong government increased their minimum allowable wage to \$4,310. Their food allowance was also increased to \$1,037.

The Philippine Consulate General asked

the Hong Kong government to make the food allowance mandatory and include it in the salaries of FDHs.

“We also raised na isama ang food allowance dun sa MAW,” said Vice Consul Alex Vallespin.

“We told them that Filipinos love to eat rice for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and we heard so many stories that the food employers provide to their domestic workers were the leftovers of their wards,” he added.

Migrant groups also said that they plan to go to court if foreign domestic workers are not covered by proposed standardized working hours in Hong Kong.

On October 24, the International Care Ministries (ICM) charity ball at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre raised \$14.7 million for the ultrapoor in the Philippines.

November

HONG KONG lawmaker Fernando Che-

ung proposed stiffer penalties for erring employment agencies after a study showed that Filipino domestic workers were still being charged 25 times the legal limit.

“I will bring this up in the Legislative Council (LegCo). I would look into ways to increase penalties for employment agencies violating the law,” Cheung said.

Multinational companies in Hong Kong pledged to support the “ethical hiring” of foreign domestic workers in the city.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong prison chaplain Fr. John Wotherspoon warned OFWs that more and more women were being recruited as drug mules and that there were drug syndicates recruiting Filipinas in Hong Kong and Macau.

On November 25, former President Ferdinand Marcos was buried in the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

December

MANILA International Airport Authority general manager Ed Monreal said the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will stop collecting terminal fees from OFWs by the end of the first quarter of 2017.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office began talks with the Indonesian Consulate General so that employers blacklisted by the POLO would not be able to hire Indonesian domestic workers.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon also announced that starting Christmas Day, all balikbayan boxes containing valuables up to P150,000 will no longer be taxed.



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Duterte reveals his ailments

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte, 72, has revealed that aside from suffering daily bouts of migraine, he is also suffering from a rare disorder called Buerger's disease which affects his blood vessels.

Duterte, who in June publicly berated a journalist who asked for his medical records, admitted that he also has spinal issues and Barrett's esophagus, which is associated with an increased risk of developing esophageal cancer.

"I have this migraine every day. I had a bad slip (before) and I hit the cement...I have a lot of issues with my spinal (chord). My doctor would want to operate, but you know my wife was a nurse and she used to work in the US. She said a lot of operations for the spinal went awry, went wrong," he said.

He denied rumors that he had cancer but said he had Buerger's disease, which is usually found in heavy cigarette and tobacco smokers. The condition constricts



Duterte

blood vessels, resulting in swelling in veins and arteries.

"Don't believe (rumors that I have) cancer. What I have is Buerger's disease. It's an acquired thing that you get when smoking because of nicotine. Nicotine constricts the vessels," the President said.

"So if you see me always with a sad mode (one hand pressed to his cheek), I am actually pushing a nerve here to relieve the pain," he added.

Duterte likewise admitted "abusing" Fentanyl, a potent pain medication used by cancer patients.

He said his doctor ordered him to stop doubling his prescribed Fentanyl dosage, warning him that the first effect is loss of cognitive ability.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella has allayed concerns over Duterte's health. "It's nothing serious," Abella said. "He's 72 years old, give him a break. But

considering the fact that he just keeps going, he's got an Energizer bunny somewhere in there."

"The President has been very transparent on his health. People ask should we have a medical bulletin? But based on results, the President seems to be in the pink of his health, you know, considering his schedules," he added.

For her part, Senator Grace Poe urged Duterte to make public his medical records to show that he is mentally and physically fit to govern the country.

"I think, so that people would actually not be doubting or not be suspecting that something is going on, the easiest thing to do is just to disclose your medical records. That would be the best thing to do," Poe said.

"Just maybe a certification from a respectable doctor that says that the President is fit and healthy and he has no debilitating illnesses that will hamper him from doing or that will stop him from doing his job properly," Poe added.

De Lima indicted

By Maia Lopez

THE Department of Justice has indicted Senator Leila de Lima, filing a case against her before a Quezon City court for ignoring official summons from Congress as well as for advising her former lover and driver, Ronnie Dayan, to ignore a congressional inquiry.

The DOJ found probable cause to hold De Lima accountable for violating Article 150 of the Revised Penal Code, which penalizes "disobedience to summons."

The justice department acted on the complaint filed by House leaders led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez against de Lima on Dec. 13.

"Respondent's advice to Mr. Dayan through his daughter to hide and not to appear in the house inquiry constitutes an act amounting to restraining another to attend as a witness in the national assembly (now Congress of the Philippines) and inducing disobedience to a summon," read the resolution approved by Prosecutor General Jorge Catalan Jr.

Under the Revised Penal Code, the offense charged against De Lima carries a penalty of imprisonment from one month to six months or a fine ranging from P200 to P1,000 or both.

In its complaint, the House cited Dayan's testimony that De Lima advised him to snub the invitation of the panel in relation to its investigation on the narcotics trade at the national penitentiary.

De Lima is facing a separate case before the DOJ for drug trafficking, graft, qualified bribery and violations of Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and Presidential Decree 46 or the law on accepting gifts over her alleged involvement in the NBP drug trade.

For his part, Solicitor General Jose Calida branded De Lima as "Public Enemy No. 1" as he vowed to provide legal assistance to groups that earlier filed drug-related charges against her.

"Drugs are our enemy, and who is espousing the proliferation of drugs? Former Justice secretary De Lima. Therefore, she is Public Enemy No. 1," Calida said.

"Senator De Lima should not be left to her own devious devices at the expense of the people. The high priestess of hypocrisy and patron saint of narco-politics must not be allowed to make a mockery of our justice system and get away with it. Her shenanigans demand a more vigorous response from the government she wants to destroy. The people are disgusted and so are we," the state's top lawyer said.



De Lima

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US issues travel warning vs PH

By Maia Lopez

THE Department of State on December 21 warned American citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to the Sulu Archipelago and through the southern Sulu Sea.

It also urged Americans to exercise extreme caution when traveling to the island of Mindanao, due to continued terrorist threats, insurgent activities, and kidnap-

pings.

“Terrorist and insurgent groups based in the Sulu Archipelago continue to kidnap foreigners in the Eastern Sabah province of Malaysia and the southern Sulu Sea area,” the advisory said.

“This area stretches from the southern tip of Palawan, along the coast of Sabah,

Malaysia and the islands of the Sulu Archipelago, up to Zamboanga City, Mindanao,” it added.

The advisory said separatist and terrorist groups continue to carry out attacks and kidnappings against civilians, foreigners, political leaders, and Philippine security forces in Mindanao.

“Since January 2016, at least 13 separate kidnappings of foreigners have been reported across Mindanao. In western Mindanao, terrorist, insurgent, and criminal gangs regularly conduct kidnappings for ransom,” the advisory said.

“In central Mindanao, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) remain

active in the Cotabato City area, and in the Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat provinces, where the government maintains a state of emergency and a greater police presence,” it added.

It also noted that a terrorist group conducted a bombing in Davao City, killing 15 and wounding 69 people, in September.

‘DOLE order to worsen endo’

By Maia Lopez

IT’S dead on arrival (DOA) for the proposed new department order (DO) on endo of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as far as labor groups are concerned.

The draft DO, the country’s major labor groups under the labor coalition Nagkaisa said, will not lead to the ultimate end but rather to the further strengthening of the legal standing of contractualization in the country.

“DOLE intends to adopt what all labor groups unanimously rejected during the labor summit – the ‘win-win solution’ of DTI. This could signal the end of President Duterte’s campaign promise to end endo,” said Danny Edralin, Vice-Chair for the Private Sector of the Sentro ng Nagkakaisang Manggagawa or SENTRO.

“The draft new DO may seem to restrict labor contracting to seasonal and project employment but these employment schemes may however be extended to cover jobs, work or services which are directly related to the business operations of a company. As such, contractualization of labor would still proliferate in the guise of describing the job, work or service as seasonal or project employment,” said Partido Manggagawa Chair Renato Magtubo.

The working draft of the new DO was presented during the Tripartite Executive Committee of the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council last week. Said DO recognizes trilateral employment relationship which has long been opposed by organized labor as it undermines workers’ rights to security of tenure, to organize and collectively bargain.

For TUCP: “It is a mere rehash of what current laws already provide. It gives nothing new to workers. Change requires a DO that further restricts contractualization while a new law is needed.”

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Your OFW-COMMUNITY in Hong Kong



Bonggang 4G LTE DATA PLAN pang OFW na \$108 lang kada buwan!

Mga dabarkads! Heto nanaman ang bagong serbisyo para sa inyo, ang bonggang 4G LTE DATA PLAN na \$108 lang kada buwan. Ito ang 4G data plan para sa OFW ng HK sa presyong abot kaya talaga. Ang 4G ay mas mabilis na internet sa 3G dahil ito ay nasa 4G network na. Ano ba ang pinagkai-ba ng 3G sa 4G? Ang “G” sa 3 at 4 ay para sa generation ng mobile technology na sa phones o cellular networks. Ang unang dalawa dati ay analog cell phones (1G) at digital phones (2G). Pagkatapos ay naging complicated na. Sumunod na dito ang 3G o Third-generation mobile networks at ang 4G

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

Pwede ka ng pumuli ng data plan na gusto mong gamitin. Kung 4G data plan na \$108 a month, press mo lang ang code na *111*3288# CALL. At kung gusto mo naman



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

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

Pwede ng magbayad sa Google Play Store gamit Barkadahan load!

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

Ang sunod ay kailangan ipasok ang inyong personal na information para sa google account gaya ng Mobile number, Name at Address. Huwag kalimutang i-click ang “Save” at “Accept”. Meron kayong matatanggap na SMS nagsasabing nakapag-register na pagkatapos nito. Sundin lang ang mga susunod sa screen ng app gaya ng “Save” kung saan sang ayon sa Terms And Conditions ng Play store. Kailangan mong ipasok ang google password mo at i-click ang “Confirm” para makapag-

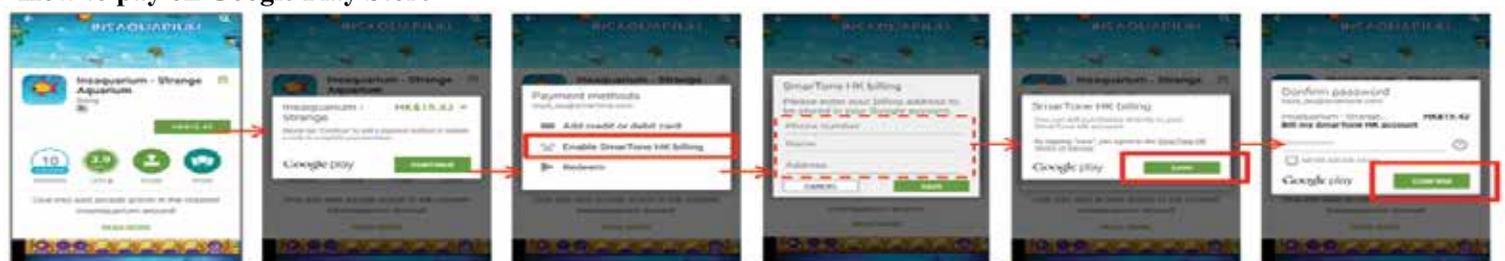


bayad na. Registration na inyong ginawa ay para sa una lamang. Sunod pagbayad ay mas mabilis na. Kada successful na pagbayad ay tatanggap ka ng SMS na naibawas na sa

inyong load binayad sa Play store. Talagang bongga maging Barkadahan dahil ang daming mga benefits. Pwede na mag subscribe popular apps gaya ng Smule karaoke,

Spotify, JOOX music, bumili ng Clash of Clans Gems at Candy Crush Life at iba pa. Iba talaga kapag Barkadahan ka. Barkadahan, For the OFW and With the OFW!

How to pay on Google Play Store



DOLE

As We See it



2017 wishes

AND a new year has come!

Who would have thought that we'd finally see the back of 2016, a year that would probably go down in history as one of the most upsetting in recent times?

The year 2016 saw Filipinos choosing a new president to lead the country.

President Duterte ran and won the presidential polls with a promise to bring change to the Filipino nation. For many Filipinos, the changes that he promised could mean as simple as better traffic management, and better transportation system.

We hope the Duterte administration pays attention to the worsening traffic situation and the inefficient transportation system in the country. We believe that

these two issues are the top concerns of overly-burdened of the Filipino working and middle-classes.

For many OFWs, we note that change has come. And this came with the removal of the fee each time they secure their OEC.

We also note that here in Hong Kong, Filipino officials scored a victory by initiating a step that barred Filipino domestic helpers from endangering their lives by cleaning the windows of their employer's flats in high-rise buildings.

We hope more would be done by the representatives of the Filipino government here to protect the welfare and the well-being of Filipinos living and working here in Hong Kong.



Haplos at Bigwas

Jun
Concepcion

Pasaway resolutions

SA pagpasok ng 2017, ano ano kaya ang mahusay na gawin ng mga OFWs dito sa HK at ibang parte ng mundo?

Masayang nakakaloka ang buhay OFW. Kaya eto ang listahan ng mga masaya at nakakalokang pwedeng gawin ng mga OFWs sa 2017 -- para di sila maimbyerna sa trabahong martir sa abroad.

1] Kung mambabae mister mo sa Pinas habang kayod kalabaw ka dito sa HK, PUTULAN mo siya . . . ng sustento.

2] Kung palitan ka niya ng ibang babae sa Pinas, wag kang pa cry cry ayon sa kanta ni Sampaguita. Warn him na KARAYIN MO ang KUMPARA o UTOL niya kung layasan ka niya! Aba, tigasin si mareng OFW, di ba?

3] Kung batugan Mr mo sa Pinas, pagtulog siya ay IPAKADENA MO PAA NIYA KATABI NG INAHING BABOY! Para di malungkot ang patabaing baboy mo doon.

4] Problema mo ba inutangan ka at ayaw bayaran? Eto ang solusyon kung may makulit na gusto uling utang na. Pautangin mo siya pero dapat alam niya -- na MANGKUKULAM ANG TATAY MO!

5] Na traffic ba ang milyones na inasam mo mula sa mga networking companies

na sinalihan mo? Grrrrr! Malas talaga! Grrrrr!! Pero no problem! May solusyon dito. Una, iuntog mo noo mo sa isang pader sa Statue Square, pero hinay lang at baka masira ang pader at baka bayad danyos ka pa. Pangalawa, konting hasa ng sentido kumon. Meron mga MATINO AT RELIABLE NA INVESTMENTS. Kung hanap mo matinong payo, pwede akong tanungin.

6] Bakit kaya ayaw maging milyon ang ipon ko sa bangko? Grrrrr!! Cool ka lang, mare. Hintay ka lang ng 100 years para limpak pera mo sa bangko! ... he he .. Kung 1% lang taon taon tubo ng bank savings mo, di ba wait ka ng 100 years bago lumaki ipon mo? Konting aral at 10% tubo yearly ay makukuha mo. Kung payo hanap mo, andito po lingkod ninyo.

7] Sampung taon na akong OFW pero hirap pa rin buhay ko! Aray!! Ano kaya gagawin ko? Easy, mare. Di mo need ang milagro. Walang empleyadong yumaman. Pero kung maging ENTREPRENEUR ka ay baka Donya Buding porma mo isang araw! Ano ang mahusay na negosyo? Start ka kaya yung alam mo na -- CHINESE COOKING! Sikat at patok ka sa lugar nyo kung eto ang pwesto mo -- HONG KONG RESTO NI DONYA BUDING.



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

Karapatan

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 epekto sa atin kapag ang mga nasabing karapatan ang tinatamaan, tinatanggal o hindi nirerespeto. 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 nagjo-job-hopping. Hindi ba't paglabag ito sa karapatan

ng manggagawa na ayon sa Labor Ordinance? 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 ang marami sa kanila ay katulad ng istorya ni Flor Contemplacion o di kaya ay ni Mary Jane Veloso -- mga biktima ng sirkumstansya at kapabayaanan. 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 pundamental 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-ban sa window-cleaning, ang pagtaas ng sahod, at ang pagtanggap 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 militarisasyon ng AFP sa mga probinsya kahit na may ceasefire. Mahigit 5,000 na ang napapatay 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,
Manigong Bagong Taon!

Isang taon na naman ang nakalipas, at isang bagong taon ang dumating sa atin ngayon.

Ano kaya ang hatid ng bagong taon?

Inaasam ko na sa taong 2017, mas magiging maigi ang kalagayan ng mga OFW saan mang bahagi ng mundo.

Katulad ng mga kasamahan ko dito sa Hong Kong, ang unang kahilingan ko para sa taong ito ay tuluyan nang matanggal ang OEC. Dagdag abala at gastos kasi para sa amin ito.

Ang mahalaga lang naman kasi ay may maayos

kaming kontrata at working visa sa aming pasaporte upang masiguro na hindi kami biktima ng trafficking.

Nagpapasalamat din pala ako na sa taong ito magsisimula na hindi na uli isasama sa ticket ng mga OFW ang terminal fee. Kahit na kasi sabihing nai-rerefund naman ang terminal fee, abala pa din ang pagpila at paghahabol sa oras para lang makuha namin ang P550.

Ang isang talagang inaasam ko sa taong ito ay magkaroon ng mas maayos at madaming trabaho sa atin sa Pilipinas upang hindi na kami mapilitang mangibang-bayan. Mahirap talaga kasi ang maging OFW.

Wala namang problema kung ang iba nating mga kababayan ay pipiliin pa ring mag-abroad upang kumita ng mas malaki. Sa akin kasi kung may maayos at stable na kita at trabaho sa atin, mas pipiliin ko na malapit ako sa aking mga mahal sa buhay at nakatira ako sa sarili kong bayan.

Maraming salamat din ho pala sa Hong Kong News sa patuloy na pagbibigay ng balita at impormasyon para sa mga OFW dito sa Hong Kong. Mabuhay kayo!

Sumasainyo,
Gigi T.

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OWWA 6345 9324
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Pag-Ibig 2823 8561
Consulate Trunkline 2823 8500
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Email: hongkongpc@philcongen-hk.com
Website: http://philcongen-hk.com/
Facebook: Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong

Hong Kong GOVERNMENT

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Central Government 2835 2500
Complaint Against Police 2866 7700
2200 4460 to 62
Consumer Rights Hotline 2929 2222
Department of Health 2961 8989
Equal Opportunities Commission 2511 8211
Immigration 2824 6111
Labour Department 2717 1771
Legal Aid 2537 7677
Race Relations Unit 2810 3203
Social Welfare 2343 2255
Transport 2804 2600
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NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants 2723 7536
Asian Migrant Center 2312 0031
Christian Action - Shine Center 3188 4555
Diocesan Pastoral Center for Filipinos (and other Asian Migrants and Ethnic Minorities) 2526 4249
Alliance of Progressive Labor 2770 0411
Bayanihan Trust Centre 2817 8928
Filipino Migrant Workers Union 9104-1411; 9758-5935
Hong Kong Christian Service - CHEER Center 3755 6811
International Social Services 2836 3598
Mission for Migrant Workers 2522 8264
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Helpers for Domestic Helpers 2523 4020
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CAC celebrates 2016 with annual fest

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

CULINARY Arts Centre Hong Kong closed 2016 with multiple reasons to celebrate.

First is that, CAC has moved in August to a much bigger place in Sheung Wan. CAC's new location is at M/F Cockloft Wing Tat Commercial Building #97 Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan.

Chef Jay Dator said moving to a new location would allow them to offer their courses to more students.

CAC also scored another victory by being listed among the top schools in Sheung Wan.

Schoolius (www.schoolius.com) is a website that helps people "find schools all over the world and follow them (schools) on social media."

And as in previous years, the CAC held its Christmas Festival, now on its 11th year, to raise funds for various charities in the Philippines and to bring cheer to and foster solidarity among its students.

Jimmy Dator, CAC Administrator, said the annual event has raised some \$800,000 in funds that were donated to Philippine-based charities serving the "marginalized, the unfortunate, and the poorest of the poor" in the country.

"The CAC Christmas Festival is being held annually for Filipinos (and through

this activity we seek to) strengthen the bond that unites us Filipinos," Dator said.

He also thanked the students and various stakeholders for their continued "trust and confidence in CAC projects."

The CAC Christmas Festival features the annual search for Ms. Popularity, Ms. Big & Beautiful Look, Dance Competition, bread- and cake-making competitions (Barbie doll category, bread-making category, and wedding cake category).

The annual event also featured the creative talents of the CAC students through their costumes, dances, and their poses.

Victoria Trois (Meat Processing student, weekdays) was named 2016 Ms. Popularity, while 1st runner-up was Sonia Ojeda (Asian & Western Cooking student, Sunday).

Meanwhile, Imelda Nicer (Professional Baking student, weekdays) was declared Ms. BBL 2016, while 1st runner-up was Noemi Paulino (Hotel & Restaurant Management student, Sunday).

The event's sponsors were Hong Kong news, Kata, Dr. Smith, Gen-Ex Cargo, Taklung Restaurant, and recruitment agency Jobs Are Us.

Other sponsors were Elisa Angcaya (Ms. Popularity 2015), Amalia Buena-gua, Carol Felipe, Yvonne Poon, and Rose Osanai.



Ms. Popularity and Ms. BBL winners (Photos by Sham H.F.)



Candidates of Ms. Popularity and Ms. Big & Beautiful Look



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Chef Jay with Culinary Arts Students. For more queries, please call 2850 7714 / 2850 7724 / 2850 7408 or 2550 7714



The creation of Lolita Pascual, who won 1st place in the breadmaking category.



The masterpiece of Arjay Pelle, who took the first prize in the barbie doll category.

GALLERY

Nora Guzman wins a Kata V4 during the VIP Artists Club Christmas Party on Dec. 18 at the Chic Party Place, Kwun Tong.



Chef Jay with Culinary Arts Centre students taking up a course on bakery management. For enquiries, please call 28507724, 28507714, 28507408, 28507438. CAC is also one of the top schools in Sheung Wan featured by schoolus.com.

New Year, New Beginnings

AS the calendar pages turn to an end, we open up a new one. The New Year brings us hope; it gives us time to reconnect, to work hard and a chance to make our family feel loved. This is the core reason that keeps BM Express going, bringing its services to our fellow kababayans in Hong Kong.

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ble in Hongkong. It's about time our hard-working OFWs be offered this high-quality and reliable service.

BM Express has opened its newest office right at the center of Hongkong to cater to our modern heroes to help them send their love and support, and make them feel connected to their loved ones. Staying true to its promise of connecting people, BM Express has been consistently competitive in the courier business to ensure overall quality service, bridging the distance between Filipinos and their relatives back home in the Philippines.

Operating with a full support system, BM Express has earned the trust of Overseas Filipino families from Australia, New Zealand and now, Hongkong.

It is a fact that the New Year comes with



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the promise of a new beginning, the promise of hope, the promise of connecting with our loved ones easily and making us feel that we're a little closer to home.

PCG promotes PH as investment hub at expo

THE Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong SAR and Filipino exhibitors promoted the Philippines as investment, business, and tourism destination in three exhibitions, namely, The World SME Expo, Hong International Franchising Show 2016 and Business IP Forum Asia, organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council from December 1 to 3 at the Hong Kong Convention Center.

The PCG set up a booth at The World SME Expo to promote the country's information technology, and business process and outsourcing sector. The World SME Expo is a one-stop platform for market opportunities featuring a full spectrum of SME support services to enhance small



The PH expo booth (DFA photo)

and medium-sized enterprises' competitiveness in the world market.

The Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) also participated in the Hong Kong International Franchising Show. On its second year, the franchising event provided a one-stop platform for companies and entrepreneurs looking for franchising brands, business partners and top franchising tips.

The show offered numerous franchising opportunities in different sectors with "Catering", "Non-Catering" and "International" zones to help companies match with partners and expand their business.

PFA promoted franchises on food such as Jollibee, Shakey's, Max's Restaurant, Potato Corner); retail such as Karimadon and Plains & Prints; and services such as Bioessence and Mr. Quickie.

PFA President, Dr. Alan Escalona, was a panel speaker at the Round Table Meeting at the sidelines of the Show and provided updates on the latest market trends and regulations in the Philippines.

The Business of IP Forum Asia 2016 was participated in by a 36-member delegation from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL).

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US bill for Pinoy vets

By Maia Lopez

THE US House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bill that seeks to award Filipino World War II veterans the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the US Congress gives to civilians.

"Today, the United States Congress took an historic step forward in honoring the more than 200,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers that served our country during World War II," said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard.

"With unanimous support from the United State Congress, our bill now heads to the President's desk. I urge the President to sign this bill into law before the year's end, and honor our veterans with this long-overdue recognition," Gabbard added.

The bill, which passed the Senate in July, acknowledges the more than 200,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who responded to President Franklin Roo-

sevelt's call-to-duty and fought under the American flag against the Imperial Forces of Japan during World War II.

The group KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress thanked US Congress leaders for recognizing Filipino war veterans.

"Today is truly a great day, a significant seminal period in American history – second only to the liberation of the Philippines and surrender of the Japanese Imperial Forces on August 15, 1945," said retired Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, chair-

man of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project.

"Now we can tell our veterans with pride in our hearts that this grateful nation has, at last, granted them recognition for the selfless sacrifice they endured in war, and restored their dignity and honor in service to their nation," Taguba said.

"For months, we have said that time is running out to recognize Filipino World War II veterans for their brave service," US Senator Mazie Hirono said



US Congress

DOLE eyes Kuwait ban for domestic workers

By Maia Lopez

THE Department of Labor and Employment is considering a ban on the deployment of Filipino domestic helpers to Kuwait amid reports of abusive employers.

The rising number of reported cases of abuse against foreign household workers has prompted the labor department to study the possibility of halting deployment of domestic workers to the Middle East countries.

The department noted that the number of runaway expatriates have also continued to rise.

As this developed, at least 152 undocumented OFWs in Kuwait were repatriated to the Philippines.

Their return is part of the Assisted Voluntary Repatriation Program (AVRP) by the host government in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait.

This is the biggest mass repatriation

since the AVRP, a mutual agreement which seeks to address the rising number of illegal expatriates in Kuwait, was implemented last year.

Of the 152 repatriates, 90 were facilitated by the Philippine embassy while the other 62 were from the shelter of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

"We would like to thank the Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait Immigration Department for this continuing program and for helping the embassy in implementing this Assisted Voluntary Repatriation Program successfully," Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa said.

DOLE has promised to give the repatriated Filipinos livelihood opportunities once they are home, the report added.

Most of the undocumented OFWs worked as household service workers who left their employers after experiencing various forms of maltreatment.

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450 Pinoys deported from Sabah

By Maia Lopez

SOME 450 Filipinos who have been illegally staying in Sabah have been deported by Malaysian authorities after weeks of detention at the Papar and Sandakan temporary detention centers.

State Security Council director Rodzi Saad said 254 men, 112 women and 84 children were sent back to Zamboanga City via the Sandakan jetty.

Rodzi also warned Malaysian employers against harboring and hiring illegal immigrants as the crackdown continues.

The National Straits Time reported that at least 20,026 illegal immigrants have been sent back to their countries this year.

At least 41 Filipinos and 18 Indonesians were also arrested in a raid following the recent deportation.

Last month, President Rodrigo Duterte said he has struck a deal with Malaysian authorities during his two-day visit in Kuala Lumpur for the phased deportation of Filipino illegal immigrants detained in Sabah.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Duterte has agreed to Malaysia's request to deport 7,000 Filipino illegal immigrants detained in Sabah.

"It will indirectly resolve the issue of undocumented Filipinos in Sabah as proposed in the Royal Commission of Inquiry (on illegal immigrants in Sabah)," Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said.

Sabah holds the largest concentration of Filipinos in Malaysia, with a huge problem in terms of the need for additional consular services and economic support.

Every year, between 4,000 to 6,000 Filipinos are deported from Sabah.

May hangganan ang lahat

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

KUNG gaano na katagal ni Susan, 52, may asawa at anak, at tubong Marinduque, sa amo ay ganun din sila katagal sa gusali ng flat nila.

Nakailan ng lipat at palit ng mga kapitbahay nila, pati na rin ng mga kasamba-

hay, kaya alam nila kung sino ang bago.

Ang bago nilang kapitbahay ay Hapon na may kasambahay na Filipina. Nalaman ng amo ni Susan na naka-food allowance ang kasambahay kaya pinapadagdagan niya kay Susan ang ipinapalutong ulam at pinapahatiran palagi ang kapitbahay na kasambahay para makakain ito ng masus-

tansiya.

Bahala na raw ang kapitbahay kung bumili pa siya ng ibang pagkain. Dahil mabait naman ang amo ay nakakahiram at hingi rin ng kung anong nakalimutang bilihan sa palengke sa oras ng pagluluto.

Pero nang magbakasyon ang mga amo sa Japan ay nagpaparty itong si kapitbahay

na kasambahay at napansin ng amo ni Susan sa sobrang lakas ng tugtog.

Hiyang-hiya si Susan sa amo kasi baka isipin ay ganun din siya kapag walang amo. Pagdating ng mga amo ng kapitbahay ay ikinuwento ang ginawa ng kapitbahay. Noon mismo ay pinababa ang kasambahay na kapitbahay.

Nang magkakwentuhan ang mga kasambahay na magkakagusal ay nakikipabili at nanghingi rin pala sa kanila ng kung ano ano ang pinababang kasambahay.

Napakagulang pala ng kasambahay na iyon. Nalilibre na nga sa pagkain, tinitipid pa ang pamalengke ng amo. Nasabi tuloy nila na may hangganan ang lahat.

Kahit saang gubat, may ahas

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

NAKADALAWA nang kontrata at binubuno na ni Marian ang unang taon sa kanyang pangatlong amo nang magpasya ang huli na kumuha ng kanyang makakasama.

Kailangan daw kasi dahil habang lumalaki ang dalawang alaga ay dumarami rin ang extra-curricular activities nila.

Sa tuwa ni Marian ay inirekomenda niya ang kaibigan na matagal ng nakikiusap na tulungang makapagtrabaho rin sa Hong Kong bilang kasambahay. Tinanggap din ni amo ang rekomendasyon at madaling nabigyan ng visa ang kaibigan ni Marian.

Sa mga unang buwan ay naging maayos naman ang samahan nilang dalawang magkaibigan. Salitan sila ng araw na pahinga. Pero nang medyo nagtatagal na ay nahalata ni Marian na parang nagpapalakas sa amo ang kaibigan at naramdaman niya ang pagbabago ng pagtrato ng amo sa kanya.

Hinayaan na lang niya ito at inisip na kung ano man ang kahihinatnan nito ay may karanasan naman siya kaya madali siyang makakahanap ng panibagong amo.

Pero ang hindi niya inaasahan ay ang mawawalan siya ng pera dahil silang dalawa lang naman sa kanto. Kabibigay lang ni amo ng pera noong nakaraang gabi at binilang pa ito ni Marian sa harapan ng amo bago ipinasok sa kanyang pitaka.

Hindi niya binuksan ulit ang pitaka hanggang sa aayusin na niya ito para hati-hatiin ang laman sa mga dapat padalhan.

Ang pinagtataka ni Marian ay bakit \$2,000 lamang ang nawala. Kung sakali raw kasing nalaglag ang pera ay dapat lahat ay nawala dahil samantalang magkakasama sa pagkakatupi ang \$4,000

Hindi niya napigilang umiyak at ikinuwento niya ang nangyari sa asawa at anak. Sinabi ng anak na hayaan na lang. Kikitain at mapapalitan pa niya. Ang mahalaga raw ay hindi siya ang gumawa kasi kahit gaano pa raw kalaking halaga ay hindi na mawawala ang mantsa sa pangalan niya. Si Marian, 38, may asawa at 2 anak.



Nawalan ng pera si Marian

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Warm welcome for Alden from HK OFWs

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

KAPUSO actor Alden Richards, the other half of the phenomenal AIDub love team and the “Pambansang Bae”, was surprised by the warm welcome he got from the Filipino community here in Hong Kong.

“Hindi ko ini-expect iyong ganung kainit na pagtanggap ng mga Kapuso nating Pinoy sa mga concerts natin,” Alden told Hong Kong News.

Alden was joined by Glaiza de Castro, who plays Sang’gre Pirena in fantaserye “Encantadia”, and comedian Kim Idol, in the “One Fine Day with Bae Alden Richards” held at the Southern Stadium in Wan

Chai on December 18.

“First time ko pong mag-perform dito sa Hong Kong and I am so happy with the results and sana po makabalik ako,” he added.

For 2017, Alden and Maine Mendoza will star in a GMA Primetime soap “Destined to be Yours” and may headline a movie too.

The duo will continue to feature in the “Kalyeserye” segment of “Eat Bulaga!”. Alden will also continue his stint with “Sunday PinaSaya”.

Glaiza, meanwhile, said she felt proud as she saw Filipinos gathering in various parks and streets in Hong Kong that Sunday.

“Nakaka-amaze na how they keep their bond kasi I was told na every Sunday andyan sila. Nakita ko sila on our way to the venue, kasi galing kaming lunch. Nakita ko sila na naka-gather doon sa park at nakakatuwa na they come together here naman for one event,” Glaiza said.

She said that for 2017, “Encantadia” will continue to entertain and surprise its fans.

“Madami pang dapat abangan. Ngayon pa lang nagflo-flourish ang story. For two months nagre-tell kami para doon sa mga hindi nakaabot 10 years ago. Ang takbo kasi ng storya ng ‘Encantadia’ anything can happen, and anyone can die,” she said.



ALDEN

GMA 7 revives Christmas ‘magic’

MAGIC unfolds on television as GMA Network launches its 2016 Christmas campaign dubbed “Maniwala Sa Magic Ng Pasko,” the first locally-produced 3D animated Christmas campaign. The campaign airs worldwide on GMAPinoy TV.

With its latest offering, the station that is one-in-heart with the Filipino audience brings to life three endearing and magical stories that will inspire viewers to believe in the magic of Christmas.

“During such a busy time of the year, we hope that, by spreading the message of hope, every Kapuso will get to experience the joy and limitless possibilities that come with believing in the magic of

the Season,” says GMACHairman and CEO Atty. Felipe Gozon.

The story, Magic Crayons, is the first in this 3-part series and highlights the magical feeling of having one’s wish granted for Christmas in the eyes of a child. The network marks another first as it makes use of 3D graphics in its new Christmas campaign, a first in the local television industry.

“It is felt that the use of animated images best complements the essence of our Holiday message this year – to believe in the magic of Christmas. Through this, it is hoped that even our youngest Kapusos will enjoy our campaign and

embrace the meaning of our Christmas message this season,” GMA President and COO Mr. Gilberto Duavit Jr. shares.

The Maniwala Sa Magic Ng Pasko Christmas campaign comes at the heels of GMA’s animated anthology series Alamat’s win of the country’s first “Best of Festival” Award at the US International Film and Video Festival (USIFVF), a recognition given to an outstanding entry among Gold Camera awardees in the USIFVF.

The theme song of this year’s Christmas campaign is sung by Julie Anne San Jose with lyrics written by BJ Camaya and Nicolle Castillo.

Vhong, hindi pa nag-iisip na magpakasal ulit

By Inaki Garcia

HINDI pa nag-iisip na magpakasal ulit ang sikat na artista at TV show host na si Vhong Navarro.

Sinabi niya na hinihintay pa niya ang gang “perfect timing” para hilingin sa kanyang kasintahan na si Tanya Bautista na magpakasal.

“Sobrang happy ako for Anne and Erwan and Billy and Coleen. Mga kapatid ko ‘yang mga ‘yan...Maganda ‘yung moment nila so dapat ibigay ko muna sa kanila,” sabi ni Vhong.

“Meron talaga dapat [timeframe] kaya lang feeling ko hindi aabot. Ang dami ring dumating na kailangang asikasuhin ko muna. Alam naman ni Tanya ‘yun. Hinihintayin ko lang ‘yun matapos and soon, papunta din naman kami doon,” aniya.

Sinabi ni Vhong na gusto niyang mag-ing sigurado na, kapag siya ay nagpakasal ulit, iyon na ang huli.

Pinakasalan dati ni Vhong si Bianca Lapuz ngunit naghiwalay din sila at na-anul ang kanilang kasal noong 2010.

Sinabi ng sikat na “It’s Showtime” host na swerte siya kay Bianca.

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Horoscope

Capricorn December 22 to January 19
Kung dati ay mataas ang iyong pride, mas makabubuti kung magpakumbaba at mabuhay ng walang sama ng loob. Maaaring swerte sa iyo ang bagong trabaho; pangalagaan ito at makikita mo ang katas ng mga pinaghirapan.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18
Lahat ng pagsubok sa iyo ay malalampasan mo kung positibo ka at hindi nawawalan ng pananampalataya. Pag-igihan ang trabaho sa pagpasok ng taon at may naghihintay sa iyong magandang sorpresa.

Pisces February 19 to March 20
Hindi madali ang iyong ginagawa at nangangailangan ito ng tibay ng loob. Dumulog sa Diyos at maging malapit sa mga mahal sa buhay. Sa kanila ka kumuha ng lakas.

Aries March 21 to April 19
May dahilan ang bawat pangyayari sa buhay, at lahat ng iyong nakikilala ay maituturing na blessing. Mas maging positibo ngayong taon dahil marami pang blessings ang naghihintay sa iyo. Buksan ang puso at isipan, magpatawad at magmahal ng lubusan.

Taurus April 20 to May 20
Magpasalamat sa lahat ng iyong natanggap na biyaya, kahit ang mga pagsubok ay ipagpasalamat din dahil sa mga aral na iyong napulot. Swerte ang 2013 sa iyo dahil dito mo aanihin ang mga itanim na kagandahang loob at hirap sa trabaho.

Gemini May 21 to June 20
Kung noong nakaraang taon ay binigo ka ng isang minamahal, asahang magiging maganda ang kapalaran sa larangan ng puso. Pag-igihan din ang trabaho.

Cancer June 21 to July 22
Huwag lamang sumuko sa pagdarasal at panatilihin buhay ang pag-asa sa iyong puso. Diringgin ng Diyos ang iyong mga dasal sa tamang oras at pagkakataon. Maging mas mapagpatawad.

Leo July 23 to August 22
Huwag hayaang magpatuloy ang inyong away sa bagong taon. Ngayong taon ay matuto na ring mag-apon dahil hindi ka na bumabata. Gamitin ang lakas upang magtrabaho ng mabuti at makaipon para sa kinabukasan.

Virgo August 23 to September 22
Hingin ang basbas ng Panginoon, pati ng mga kapamilya at kaibigan, para sa planong gusto mong isakatuparan ngayong taon. This is your year, ika nga. Gawin ang lahat para mapabuti ang buhay mo at buhay ng iyong mga minamahal.

Libra September 23 to October 22
Mapupuntahan mo ang isang lugar na matagal nang gustong bisitahin. Matuto ring mag-apon ng maayos habang may lakas ka at kapasidad na magtrabaho. May makikilala ka ngayong taon na babago sa iyong buhay.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21
Naging maganda ang trato mo sa mga tao sa paligid at naging positibo ka sa mga problema. Ipagpatuloy ang ganitong gawain at makikita mo ang katuparan ng mga pangarap sa buhay. Alagaang mabuti ang sarili at umiwas sa sakit.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21
Ipagpaliban muna ang planong mag-travel ngayong taon dahil may isang magandang sorpresa ang naghihintay. Pagbutihin pa ang trabaho at pakikitungo sa kapwa dahil ito ang magiging daan sa swerte.

What's Cooking?

HERE'S another reason to love lobster: our very own Steamed Lobster in Curry Sauce. Our featured recipe is a combination of the most compelling tastes in the culinary world—a bit sweet and spicy—so it's guaranteed to satisfy every food-lover's craving.

Try it now and find out why this recipe, whipped up by Dhara C. Maculbe, may just be the best combination ever. It was the grand winner in the Chef's Competition of the Culinary Arts Centre.

- Ingredients:**
2 fresh and large lobsters
1 carrot sliced
1 pc celery sliced
Ginger minced
1 medium sliced
1 tsp. turmeric powder
1 tsp. sugar
¾ cup coconut milk
2 Tbsp. butter

1 red bell pepper sliced
Directions:

1. Blanche celery, carrots and add in salt and pepper
2. Steam lobsters for about 12-15 minutes until the meat is tender. Set aside.
3. Meanwhile, sauté garlic with onion, ginger and turmeric. Add in the remaining ingredients with butter and coconut milk, stirring continuously.
4. Pour the sauce to the steamed lobster and cook until well blended.
5. Serve hot.

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre M/F Cockloft, Wing Tat Commercial Building #97 Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong For enquiries, please call at 2850 7714 or 2850 7724



By Chef Jay Dator



First Night

AMA: O, anak kumusta ung first night nyo?
ANAK: Itay, di ako nakaiscore magdamag..
AMA: Bakit? Anong nangyari?
ANAK: Ei kasi itay nung hinubad ko yung damit, may nakalagay sa panty.. "PRIVATE PROPERTY, DO NOT ENTER"
AMA: E2 anak suotin mo. E2 brief na may nakalagay na "PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAY, DEMOLITION TEAM DO NOT DELAY"

Prusisyon

PARI: Ang mga boys, sunod sa karo ni San Jose. Mga girls, sa karo ni Mama Mary.
BAKLA: Kami father, saan kami susunod?
PARI: Mga bruha! Follow me!

Deposit

Teacher: "Pedro, use 'deposit' in a sentence."

Pedro: "Easy lang 'yon Ma'm, D' posit is leaking."
Teacher: "No, no, no, you got it wrong. Let me explain it to you further. You know BANK DEPOSIT. See the relationship? BANK DEPOSIT?"
Pedro: "Oh, I got it."
Teacher: "Okey, I'll give you another chance, use 'deposit' in a sentence."
Pedro: "D' posit in the bank is leaking."

Dalawang unano

Dalawang unano, nag-goodtime sa Beer Garden at Karaoke bars. To cap the night, nag-motel pa at kumuha ng magkatabing kuwarto. Disappointed ang isa dahil hindi siya ginanahan. Kahit anong gawin niya ay wala pa rin.

Lalong lumaki ang disappointment niya nang marinig ang nasa kabilang kuwarto na bumibilangISADALAWA..... TATLO..... UMMPPPP sa boung magdamag. Kinabukasan, sa kanilang pag-uusap: "Disappointed ako dahil kahit anong gawin ko hindi ako tigasan." "Eh, di mas lalo na ako, HINDI AKO MAKASAMPA SA KAMA."

A man wanted to buy bra for his wife but doesn't know the size.
SALESGIRL: "Is it as big as papaya?"
MAN: "No."

SALESGIRL: "An apple?"
MAN: "No."
SALESGIRL: "Ahh...an egg?"
MAN: "YES, but fried!"

Letrang S

ANAK: Tays! kakains nas tayos!
TATAY: Hoy! Tigilan mo yang kalalagay mo ng 'S' sa mga sinasabi mo ha! Ano ba ang ulam?
ANAK: BANGU na may KAMATI, ARDINA na may IBUYA!

Miss Universe

Pare1: pare parang malamim iniisip mo?
Pare2: nanaginip ako kagabi. kasama ko 50 contestants ng ms.universe
Pare1: suwerte mo ano problema mo?
Pare2: pare ako ang nanalo!!!

Watch the exit

Police Chief: "Guards, may nakawalang hoodlum! Bantayan ang mga exits!"
Later..
Guard: "Sir, nakatakas ang hoodlum."
Police Chief: "Paano nangyari iyun?"
Guard: "Sir, sa entrance siya dumaan."

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- 1 Magaling
- 7 Lugar ng tulisan
- 11 Dahong medisinal
- 12 Modelo sa ibang bansa
- 13 Marami
- 14 Habi
- 15 Damihan ng asin
- 16 Okay
- 17 Higit
- 18 Enrique
- 20 Hindi ko gusto
- 23 Paos
- 27 Answer; daglat
- 29 Bulaga
- 30 A ng UAE
- 33 Bubungan
- 36 Nut; Tagalog
- 37 Clown sa Pinoy
- 38 Palayaw ni Emilio
- 39 Dating artistang

- Imelda
40 Pangalan ng babae
41 Partner ni ninong

PABABA

- 1 Hindi mabuti
- 2 Bodyguard
- 3 Sapal
- 4 Palos
- 5 Asa
- 6 Kaunting bukas
- 7 Tanyag
- 8 Sawa
- 9 Hindi panalo
- 10 Bulong
- 19 International Model
- 21 Ibayo
- 22 Kabaligtaran ng OFF
- 24 Kalat
- 25 Utusan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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13						14				
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30	31	32			33	34	35			
36					37					
38					39					
40					41					

Answer to last puzzle

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

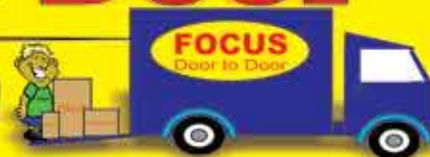
- 26 Question, Tagalog
- 28 Bimpo sa likod
- 30 Sa hulihan ng dasal
- 31 Dami
- 32 Balat sa ulo
- 34 Buhol
- 35 Nandiyan



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