

# HONG KONG NEWS

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## LET passers await PH teaching jobs



ALL SMILES. LET and BLEPT passers smile for the camera as they line up for their oath-taking ceremonies held at the PCG on March 26.

By Cheryl M. Arcibal and Maia Lopez

THIRTYTHREE-year-old Joan Marquez, a mother of two and one of those who passed the Board Licensure Examination

for Professional Teachers (formerly Licensure Examination for Teachers) held in Hong Kong in September 2016, is raring to go home to the Philippines and start teaching.

There is one problem though. She is still waiting for her assignment or item from the Department of Education.

Marquez is one of a number of domestic workers in Hong Kong who have

registered with the "Sa 'Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma'am at Sir" (SPIMS) program of the Philippine government.

Turn to page 14



**BAD ROMANCE.** An online relationship led to three criminal charges against a Filipina hotel worker.



**LOAN SHARK.** Three Filipinos who were among arrested in a loan shark case met and sought advice from an official of the Philippine Consulate.



**PRISTINE PARADISE.** Explore Coron and find out why local and foreign tourists are calling it a piece of heaven on earth.

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# Homecoming for 'Sunday Beauty Queen'

By Ally Constantino

FINALLY, the documentary that made people laugh and cry about the travails of Filipino "queens" in Hong Kong was shown here.

On Mar. 26, two block screenings of the award-winning documentary "Sunday Beauty Queen" were held at the Hong Kong University.

The proceeds of the film showing would be donated to Bethune House, a shelter for distressed migrant workers in Hong Kong.

Before the movie was shown, popular Filipino singer Erik Santos performed for

the audience.

Filipino migrant workers shrieked for and sang along with Santos as he sang his hit songs.

"Sunday Beauty Queen" documented how Filipino domestic workers show their identity by joining beauty pageants held during their rest days in various locations in Hong Kong.

Gina Marcehetti, a professor at the Department of Comparative Literature of the HKU, said films should be tapped to show the varied and rich stories of migrant women who moved overseas and left their home and their family in search of better

income.

The documentary won the "Best Picture" plum at the 2016 Metro Manila Film Festival.

Vice Consul Robert Quintin said the Philippine Consulate General is hoping to provide Cantonese subbing and translation of the movie so it could have a wider release in Hong Kong.

"Sunday Beauty Queen" follows the stories of OFWs in Hong Kong. It first premiered at the Busan International Film Festival last October.

Director bBby Ruth Villarama, whose mom was once a domestic helper, said the film was four years in the making.

"We spent two years raising [funds] and researching and doing our immersion



Movie poster of 'Sunday Beauty Queen'

with our subjects, our OFWs. As in every Sunday, we really tried our best to eat with them, spend time with them and get to know their story, which I think research is

very important of you want to understand them as house helpers," said Villarama.

"Sunday Beauty Queen" is the first documentary to be part of the MMFF.

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## Remains of FDH flown to PH

By Ally Constantino

THE remains of a domestic worker who allegedly fell to her death were repatriated to the Philippines.

Vice Consul Alex Vallespin said the body of Marife Suarez was scheduled to be flown back to the Philippines on Mar. 27.

Assistance would be provided to the victim's kin, he said.

Reports said Suarez fell from a height at a shopping mall in Yuen Long.

Police have yet to confirm the nationality of the victim, but said there was nothing suspicious about the circumstances of her death.

If Suarez's death would prove to be suicide, this would be the second recorded suicide case among Filipinos in Hong Kong this year.

On Feb. 2, a 38-year-old Filipino male was found hanging dead in his bedroom in their house in Wan Chai.

The victim, who was working as a bouncer in Wan Chai was taken to the hospital but was declared dead.

A report said a suicide note was found, and the victim allegedly told his daughter to take care of her mother.

The victim was allegedly depressed about his work.

In 2016, six Filipinos committed suicide. Five out of the six suicide cases were allegedly because of debt-related problems.



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# SSS eyes mandatory coverage of overseas Filipinos

By Ally Constantino

THE state-run Social Security System has sought legislative backing to implement the mandatory coverage of Overseas Filipino Workers following its goal to expand its members' coverage while providing security protection for the country's new heroes.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel F. Dooc said the shift to mandatory OFW coverage is one of the provisions of the proposed charter amendment the pension fund is pushing in the legislative stage.

"Our objective is not just to strengthen enforcement of compliance for the coverage of employers and employees in

the private sector, but also to encourage self-employed individuals and voluntary members like OFWs to register and be active in the system" he added.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed there were 2.4 million OFWs as of 2016. Of this number, about 20 percent only were paying-members of the SSS or about 500,000 OFWs, with

contributions reaching P4.64 billion.

This number, however, represents only 13 percent of the estimated 3.84 million Filipinos working on temporary status abroad, as per latest data of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO).

He emphasized that the mandatory coverage of OFWs would increase the number of members of the pension fund

on the back of SSS' efforts for universal coverage.

On the other hand, SSS has disbursed P779 million in benefits to OFWs in 2016. These include initial and lump sum benefits fore retirement, death, (funeral with grant) and disability, and short-term benefits for sickness and maternity (for female workers).

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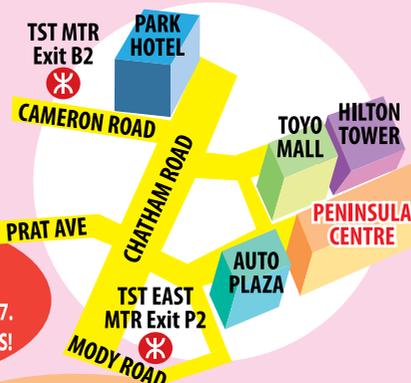
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# DH charged with stealing doll, hair straightener

By Ally Constantino

A domestic worker has been charged of theft at the Eastern Magistracy on Mar. 16 for taking a "Hello Kitty" doll, and a hair straightener from a mall in Quarry Bay.

Prosecutors charged Manuela V. of taking the items from the Aeon store in separate occasions.

The defendant allegedly stole the "Hello Kitty" doll limited edition on Dec. 26, 2016 at the third floor of Aeon Store in

Kornhill Road.

The Filipino then allegedly took the hair straightener from the electrical appliance section also from the same mall on Jan. 15, 2017.

The prosecution asked Principal Magistrate Bina Chainrai to adjourn the case to April 12 to allow them to obtain more documents and for the defendant to consider her plea.

Judge Chainrai granted the adjournment and allowed Manuela to post \$1,000 as

bail, but was told to stay in Hong Kong, and reside in the address given to the court.



Hair straightener

## Single pa guilty of assault

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

FOR trying to interfere in an apparent lovers' tiff, a Filipino man was convicted of two counts of common assault at the Eastern Magistracy.

Deputy Magistrate Peter Hui on Mar. 16, found J.L. Legaspi, a single father who has been working in Hong Kong for 12 years now, guilty of the offenses.

He was given a one-month imprisonment each for the two counts of common assault, but suspended it for 12 months. The suspended sentence means that if Legaspi does not commit any crime again within the period, he does not have to serve the jail term.

The prosecution alleged that Legaspi, sometime in 2016, saw a Filipino female and a South Asian man quarreling outside the Jardine House in Central. When he tried to intervene, the Filipino woman got angry and berated him. The defendant walked toward the World-Wide House, and was followed by the Filipino woman.

In the video clippings shown in court, the Filipino woman was seen holding on to the defendant's shirt, while it was learned that the South Asian man was filming the confrontation near the World-Wide House. The quarrel escalated when the Filipino female refused to let go of the defendant. After the South Asian man called for police assistance, and he saw the situation getting worse, he stepped out to help the Filipino female.

The defendant then allegedly turned and assaulted the South Asian man. Legaspi allegedly punched the South Asian man's forehead, who then started bleeding.

When a police officer arrived in the scene, the defendant was seen pinned to the ground by the South Asian man. The two then got up, but Legaspi tried to hit the South Asian man again, prompting the police officer to subdue the defendant to

the ground, handcuffed and arrested him.

Legaspi gave evidence in court and said he only acted in self-defense, citing that he also had injuries. He said he tried to help but his intention was probably not made clear to the Filipino female.

The Filipino female, he said, was incensed after he called her a "prostitute".

"The defendant said he was surprised the victim (Filipino female) was not only grateful for his help, but also turned aggressive and he thought she was going to hit him," said Judge Hui.

The magistrate added that Legaspi was a "busybody" who should not have been in trouble had he stayed away from the lovers' quarrel.

Judge Hui said Legaspi insisted that his actions, including pulling the female victim's hair, were only to defend himself.

Legaspi, who is single but has a two-year-old daughter in the Philippines, has been a domestic helper in Hong Kong for 12 years and has served only one employer since then. His female employer also gave evidence in court and gave "positive comments" about Legaspi being a "person of good character".

Judge Hui said he repeatedly reviewed the video recordings, and he saw there was a legitimate reason for the female victim to hold on to the defendant.

"After carefully considering defendant's evidence, I am of the view he purposely played down what he did to the (first prosecution witness), hoping to get himself off the hook," Judge Hui said.

In mitigation, the defendant's private lawyer, said Legaspi is earning \$9,000 a month as driver.

"He has learned a lesson and this is the first time the defendant got into trouble," the lawyer added.

Besides the suspended sentence, Judge Hui also ordered Legaspi to pay within one month the costs of \$5,000.

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# 'Online BF' lands Pinay in court

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

"STEVE Michael" called her "honey," "wife," and promised her that they would be building their future together and put up a business in the Philippines, but in the end he got her involved in illegal transactions, leading to three criminal cases against her.

A Kowloon City Courts heard on Mar. 21-23 how R. Tam, a Filipino working in a hotel here in Hong Kong, received money from Michael, who identified himself as a man working in a construction company in London, through her Public Bank account, and deposited it to a HSBC account.

Tam and a Chinese woman, S. S-y. Hui, were charged with three counts of "conspiracy to deal with property known or believed to represent proceeds of indictable offense."

Tam, who married a Hong Kong resident who passed away a few years ago, "met" Michael online in January 2014, and started an "internet relationship" with him a month later.

In March 2014, her boyfriend sent her \$350,000. She then transferred \$347,000 to an HSBC account.

"I believed him. I loved him and he loved me. We were in a relationship, and I trusted him and he trusted me," Tam answered when asked by the prosecutor why she agreed to do what the man she only met only some two months before asked her to do.

Tam told the court her account received the money on March 26, 2014, and \$3,000 was given to her by Michael after she said she needed financial assistance as life was difficult.



Kowloon City Courts

The prosecution charged Tam conspired with Michael to launder proceeds of illegal or criminal activities.

Tam, however, said Michael told her the money came from "project-related" activities.

The Filipina, who has a grown son and daughter-in-law in the Philippines and a granddaughter, said she and Michael only communicated through online chatting.

Michael, she said, told her he could not deposit the money to his own account, but as his "wife" she should help him and handle all these transactions.

As a housekeeping staff in a hotel, Tam said she would tell Michael that she would be tired, and he would re-assure her that

they would be putting up a business in the Philippines and Hong Kong. He also promised her that he would be coming to Hong Kong in June 2014 so they could discuss their future together.

Tam said Michael introduced himself as a Caucasian man.

However, on March 29, 2014, Tam found she could not check her ATM account, and messaged him that she "felt worried and she was scared".

She said she wanted to check if her salary had been deposited to her account, but found that she could not access it.

"Honey, you're scared? You don't have to be scared. What happened to your card?" Michael replied.

"Now my card is under hold. Maybe somebody blocked my card. Honey, you put me in trouble," Tam messaged Michael.

"No, I did not put you in trouble. Why do you say this, darling?" Michael replied, adding that he would also have a word with his bank manager, who Tam said was

rude to her and had yelled at her on the phone so she would immediately deposit the money to the HSBC account.

"Honey, I don't want you talk to him, Don't take his calls. I am trusting you with my money...I am also scared, that is my company's money," Michael added.

"I'm really scared. You know I easily get scared," Tam then replied.

When she confided to her daughter-in-law in the Philippines about her ATM card, the latter told her that she might have been "scammed" by Michael.

On March 31, 2014, Tam was arrested by police.

In her video recording interviews with the police, Tam was also asked about a \$374,000 deposit into her account, as police retrieved Michael's message to her saying, that out of the amount, \$23,000 would be hers.

"That was not a reward, that was financial assistance to me," said the defendant.

Meanwhile, the Chinese woman defendant, surnamed Hui, detailed how she transferred via Western Union, and went to Malaysia to deliver money to a "South African" man she also met via online chatting in 2014.

She said she entered into a relationship with "Ben", who introduced himself as a foreign student in Malaysia.

Hui, a divorcee, said she paid for her air tickets, hotel, and gifted Ben with a MacBook, and an iPhone.

In turn, he had promised he would pay her back by transferring money to her bank account.

The money he sent to her Hang Seng Bank account, Ben allegedly told her, was from his uncle who had set up a buy-and-sell company.

Ben said his uncle sent the money to him as payment for goods that Ben would buy in Malaysia and then send to South Africa.

Hui was arrested by the police in mid of August 2014.

The court adjourned the continuation of the trial to Apr. 5.

## OFWs mark Flor's death anniversary

By Ally Constantino

MIGRANT Filipino workers have reiterated their call for the total abolition of the Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC).

About 20 members of various Filipino groups picketed the office of the Philippine Consulate General in Admiralty on Mar. 16 and submitted a joint statement.

"Kaming mga migranteng manggagawa sa Hong Kong ay nagkakaisa at nanawagan na lubusan nang alisin ang Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) at P550 Terminal Fee.

"Sa pangatlong pagkakataon, ito ay muli naming pinaabot kay President Duterte at sa Secretary of Department of Labor and Employment dahil hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay marami pa rin sa ating mga balik manggagawa ang napeperwisyo ng hindi naman kailangang OEC," the statement said.

The picket action was also held to mark the 22nd death anniversary of Flor Contemplacion, who was executed in Singapore for allegedly killing another Filipino worker Delia Maga and the latter's ward.

Vice Consul Alex Vallespin received the group's submission.



Vallespin receiving the petition

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# Suspects in loan ring seek help

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

AT least three Filipinos arrested by Hong Kong police involved in alleged illegal lending activities preying on domestic workers have sought a meeting with the Philippine Consulate General.

Vice Consul Alex Vallespin told Hong Kong News that three Filipinos consulted them on Mar. 26 regarding the probe.

"Sabi ko sa kanila depende sa imbestigasyon ng pulis kung ano ang mangyayari sa kanila. Imbestigahan din ng pulis iyong 242 passports na nakuha sa kanila," Vallespin said.

He added that those who used their passports as collateral would only be able to recover them once the police wrapped up their probe on the matter.

"Sabi ko sa kanila na kapag tinawagan sila ng pulis at imbestigahan sila, sabihin lang nila ang totoo," Vallespin said.

All 10 persons arrested in connection with illegal lending activities have been released on police bail.

"They will report back here in the mid of April," a police spokesman said.

In a separate interview, an official of



Seized Philippine passports

the PCG said there could be other groups or persons preying on Filipino household service workers in Hong Kong.

The source said the Consulate's role in the case was to help a Filipino worker who sought their assistance after failing to recover her passport even after paying the full amount of her loan.

The source added that they discovered the modus after numerous requests for travel document from Filipino domestic workers who declared that they lost their passports.

"Lahat ng ito reklamo ng OFWs. Na-

greklamo sila, nagpunta sila dito, at nag-draft ng affidavits kasi we call the middle persons and then we tried to negotiate the release of the passport whether by full payment or after full payment or waiver ng interest," he said.

On Mar. 14, police said persons behind the loan shark syndicate were estimated to have profited at least \$2 million from the illegal activity.

Chan Hon-ming, superintendent of Organized Crime and Triad Bureau of Hong Kong Police Force, said the syndicate gave loans to more than 1,200 borrowers between March and October 2016. All the borrowers were Filipino domestic workers.

"These loans, ranged from \$4,000 to \$15,000, were given out at a monthly interest rate of 10 percent and the borrowers all surrendered their passports and contracts for collaterals.

"Over this short period of eight months, the syndicate had already given out a total of \$10 million in cash and the estimated minimum return the syndicate earned from these loans amounted to \$2 million," Chan said.

Besides the eight Filipino women, whose ages ranged 34-58, a local couple, the alleged financiers, was also arrested.

"Our investigation revealed a local couple was in control and operating this syndicate by funding the loans," Chan said.

The couple also used their domestic helper to recruit more runners.

Arrests were made on Mar. 12 after passports were passed on by a Filipino female to the couple. Raids were also conducted at various premises "including a rented service office used by the syndicate and the residence of the syndicate members".

The syndicate members, the police said, were arrested for "Conspiracy to lend money at excessive interest rate" and "Conspiracy to blackmail".

The offense of "lending money at excessive interest rate" carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$5 million under the Money Lenders Ordinance in Hong Kong.

The police also said those who wish to share information about loan shark syndicates preying on Filipino domestic workers may call 6348-1240.

## 3 Pinoy tourists plead guilty to theft in Zara

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THREE Filipino tourists were sent to jail after pleading guilty to theft and attempted theft charges at the District Court on Mar. 27.

J.S. Mangasil, a vegetable vendor; J.R.A. Aguilar, a worker at a cockfighting arena, were sentenced to 48 months each for theft and attempted theft charges.

Owing to their guilty plea, however, District Judge Timothy Casewell discounted eight months each for the cases, reducing to a total of 32 months their jail term.

Citing the totality principle, Judge Casewell said the defendants would be serving 24 months each, as half of the 16 months of prison term would be served concurrently and consecutively.

The other defendant - A.D.T. Serapiones or W.V. Diamante or A.A. Amor - was sentenced to 42 months in prison for the two charges and 15 months for the breach of deportation order case. The sentence was reduced to 38 months after Serapiones pleaded guilty.

Citing the totality principle, Serapiones would be serving a total of 30 months in prison as part of his jail term would be served concurrently and consecutively.

Prosecutors alleged the three were responsible for stealing an iPhone of a Chinese woman shopping at the Zara store in the IFC mall in Central in June 2016. The three also attempted to steal items from the clothing and accessories shop.

Mangasil, 44, is a single mother with two daughters, aged 18 and 17, and one son, aged 16 in Manila. She also supported her ailing 67-year-old mother. Her lawyer told the court that as a vegetable vendor, she earned \$500 monthly.

Cuesta, 40, meanwhile, worked in a cockfighting arena, and earned \$950 monthly. As the "sole breadwinner" of the family, he supported his six children, and an elder sister who has ovarian cancer.

Serapiones, on the other hand, 58, also has five children aged between 26 and 31, and has five siblings. It was found that he had been previously jailed in Hong Kong owing to similar pick-pocketing offenses.

In giving the sentence, Judge Casewell said he considered the location of the offense being a popular clothing store in shopping mall where members of the public have easy access.

He also said the three defendants came to Hong Kong specifically to commit the crime.

## Kagandahang maputing kutis at magandang hubog ng body gamit din ng mga celebrities

NAGIGING overweight at out of shape ang katawan sa maraming kadahilanan kapag ang tao ay may mataas na body fats at ang iba ay napaparami ang kinakain. Naging mahirap para kay Mary Grace Mendoza na mabawasan ang timbang, sinubukan din ang iba't-ibang klaseng treatment pero hindi naging pangmatagalan ang epekto.

Halos mawalan na siya ng pag-asa hanggang sa makita mula sa dyaryo ang before at after photos ng pinay na pumuti at naging sexy dahil sa paggamit ng upgraded Dream Love 1000 5 in 1 body essence lotion, gawa sa England na may 3D hologram model image silver seal na mabibili daw sa halagang HK\$98 lamang mula sa mga Pinoy stores tulad ng Victory Supermarket, Sun Fung, Fiesta Mart at Aurora Mart sa Worldwide plaza

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katawan ayon sa sa instruction sheet. Matapos gamitin ang 2½ tube na lotion sa loob ng 3 weeks, napansin ni Mary Grace na nabawasan ng ilang inches na taba sa puson, balakang, baywang at hips. Lahat ng kulubot, fine lines at dark circles ay unti-unting nawala. Naging smooth at rich in moisture ang kanyang kutis. Feel ni Mary Grace na much younger looking siya ngayon at mas radiant ang kanyang balat. Pati masikip niyang pantalon ay naisusuat niyang muli.

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Before

After

Mary Grace Mendoza

(Article provided by: LT)

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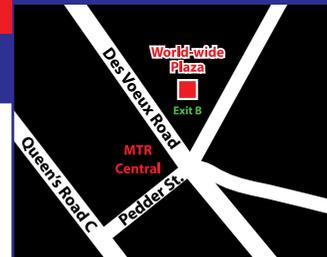
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# Four Filipino tourists to face District Court charges

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

TWO separate cases involving four Filipino defendants will be transferred to the District Court for trial.

A prosecutor on Mar. 17 informed Principal Magistrate Bina Chainrai of the Eastern Magistracy the trial for the attempted theft case against A.P. Dela Cruz, C. Talao, and S.M.M. Niduaza would be transferred to the District Court.

"Apart from the attempted theft case, D1 (Dela Cruz) will also face one count of breach of deportation order," said the prosecutor.

The prosecutor also asked for another adjournment of the case to Apr. 13.

"We have no objection, but we hope this will be the last adjournment," the Filipinos' duty lawyer said.

The prosecutor said further inquiries will be made as the first defendant initially refused to have his fingerprints taken.

The three defendants arrived in Hong



District Court

Kong on Jan. 18, and on Jan. 19 they were arrested by police.

At 6:20 p.m. on Jan. 19, a police officer allegedly caught three on the escalator of

the Causeway Bay MTR station trying to pick the rucksack of a Chinese woman.

The first defendant allegedly opened the bag's zipper, while the other two defend-

ants, who were standing nearby, acted as his cover up.

The three were remanded in custody as they had no bail application.

Meanwhile, MI Gosilatar, would be brought to the District Court for trial on March 30. Prosecutors on Mar. 15 informed Judge Chainrai the trial of Gosilatar would be moved to the District Court.

In a hearing in January at the High Court, Gosilatar's lawyer said the check was a "donation" from another Filipina, Cynthia De Guzman, to the defendant's charity—the Friends of Mama Mary 2000 charity foundation.

The defendant was arrested on Dec. 9 at the headquarters of Hang Seng Bank along Des Voeux Road in Central after she allegedly tried to encash a fake check worth US\$50 million (around HK\$388 million or P2.5 billion).

The charge of "using a false instrument" carries a penalty of up to 14 years of imprisonment.

# Pinoy threatens to kill self in prison

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

"IT'S always like this. I am tired of this life...Probably I will just kill myself to finish this."

This was the statement by a Filipino man facing various criminal charges when a judge said he would be sending the defendant to prison after the latter failed to pay a fine within the prescribed period.

Mark A.B. on Mar. 16 was first brought to Court 1 for a fresh case of "handling stolen goods" against him.

He was arrested on the previous day for another theft case.

Principal Magistrate Bina Chainrai of Eastern Magistracy asked the prosecutor why Mark was still at large as there was a standing arrest warrant against him. The prosecutor said Mark was granted police bail.

The defendant's duty lawyer asked the court to grant Mark bail because he had hypertension and kidney issues, and needed medical treatment.

Judge Chainrai denied the defendant's bail application, noting his six previous convictions, and four previous instances of absconding. The defendant was then brought to Court 7.

Judge Jason Wan Siu-ming asked Mark why he was unable to pay the original \$5,000-fine imposed on him.

"Defendant, it's you again. I have lost count of the chances I have given you to pay (the fine). Three times? Every time you told me you'd be able to pay. So what was wrong with you?" said Judge Wan.

The defendant then said he was unemployed and under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance scheme.

Judge Wan said it was the same thing that Mark told him during the last time the latter was in court.

"That's your problem. You should stay away from trouble," the magistrate said.

The defendant's lawyer said Mark was supporting his stepdaughter in the Philippines. When the magistrate said that instead of paying the fine of \$8,000, Mark should be sent to prison, the defendant became emotional.

"Probably I will just kill myself," said Mark.

The magistrate then paused and asked the defendant to "calm down".

"I will give you last chance to pay the fine. You're given two months to pay," said Judge Wan.

Mark, with a sheepish smile, asked that he be given three months to pay, but the judge refused, saying he was given almost nine months to pay.

## Babaeng amo nagcompliment sa Pinay

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Nang mabasa daw niya mula sa pahayagan ang karanasan ng isang Pinay na nagkaroon ng makulay na relasyon dahil sa paggamit nitong nasabing pabango ay naengganyo siyang bumili at gumamit nito. Nang sumunod na day off ay nagwisik siya nitong pabango bago lumabas sa bahay ng amo at napadaan daw siya sa salas na hindi sukat akalaing

gising na ang amo. Nagulat pa siya nang sambitin nito na napakabango daw ng gamit niyang perfume at tinanong saan siya nakabili. Napapangiti siya sa sarili dahil naisip niyang wow effective talaga ang pabango.

Pagkakita sa mga kaibigan ay nasabi din nila na napakabango niya at tinanong din kung saan makakabili nito. Nang sumunod na buwan ay naitakda ang kaniyang pagbakasyon sa Pilipinas, sa airport pa lamang nang magkita silang mag-asawa ay ramdam na niya ang pananabik nito at pagiging passionate habang nasa sasakyan sila pauwi ng bahay. Ang kaniyang buong bakasyon ay naging romantic at unforgettable.

(Article provided by: LT)



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# Coron's unspoiled paradise

By Daryll Saclag

HAVE you ever wondered how heaven would look like if it really did exist? Would it be high above the clouds where angels sing to you endlessly? Or would it have a Sound of Music-esque scenery where you could run freely across the meadows and up and down the hills? We may have different notions of what heaven could be, but for me if it were a place on earth it would be exactly like Coron.

Fortunately, this idyllic paradise is just an hour away from Manila and is part of the many islands that comprise Palawan.

Coron boasts an array of picturesque, Instagram-worthy sceneries – from pristine white sand beaches, crystal clear waters and vibrant marine habitats to stunning rock formations, exotic wildlife, and world-class diving spots. It is also home to one of the cleanest, if not the cleanest, lakes in Asia. Yet, despite all the raves Coron has been receiving for years, its beauty remains unspoiled, all thanks to the indigenous Tagbanwa people who manage the island and surrounding areas in a sustainable way.

Most travelers who flock to Coron book island-hopping tours that last for an entire

day and range from P1,300 to P2,400, depending on the number of sites to be visited. These tours usually include stopovers in Kayangan Lake (if you google Coron, it is the first image that will come up), Twin Lagoon, Siete Pecados, and on one or two of the many islands that dot the area. If you decide to book one of these tours, I guarantee that you will be in for some underwater treat as you will spend most of the day snorkeling. Marvel at the diverse set of sea creatures that await you – from starfish, turtles, and clownfish to stingrays, clams, and sea urchins. Drown yourself too in different shades of blue that you never knew existed. Do not forget to bring a snorkeling gear and an underwater camera so that you can fully enjoy these eyegasmic views.

Some tours also offer kayak rental services where you can travel to nearby islands at your own pace. My friend and I decided to go off the beaten path for one day so we rented a kayak to explore mangrove farms and bask in the afternoon sun on a remote beach. We also had the oppor-

tunity to share lunch with locals who had prepared freshly-caught seafood cooked in vinegar and grilled chicken.

You may also take your vacation a little bit further and go on a scuba diving trip to one of the shipwrecks that litter the sea floor. Coron is home to some of the best wreck diving spots in the world. Twelve Japanese ships sunk by the United States during World War II are now home to corals and all sorts of marine life and can be explored.

If after all these activities you are not yet convinced that Coron is a piece of heaven on earth, then you can opt to stay in Coron town – a quaint, laidback fishing village that is slowly but steadily developing as a result of the influx of tourists. From there, you can climb Mount Tapyas – Coron town's second highest mountain at 210 meters – and feast your eyes on a breathtaking view of the sunset, the pier, and nearby islands.

I am pretty sure that by this time your body will be exhausted from all the activities you have done. What better way to



Colorful corals

end a tiring day than to take a dip in a hot spring? To relax your muscles and wash away all the stress, you can go to Maquinit Hot Springs and soak your body in water warmed by a volcano. The hot spring is about 30 minutes away from town and can be accessed by boat or by tricycle.

At night, the town gets a bit sleepy as most establishments close at 6 p.m. but there are a few restaurants and souvenir shops that are open until late in the evening. If you are the type of traveler who looks for wild parties, you will not find them here in Coron. Still, there are several bars on the main street where you can enjoy drinks with locals and other travelers. At least three banks operate in Coron so getting money should not be a problem. It is advisable that you bring enough money before you travel to Coron as most transactions are settled through cash payments only.

The best time to visit Coron is during the summer months of April and May. However, to avoid large tourist crowds and get lower rates, you may consider visiting any time between September and February. Airlines fly daily to Coron from Manila while ferry trips are available every Tuesday and Friday.

When you finally decide to go, make sure to snap as many photos as you can and post them on social media to let everyone know that heaven does exist in this little corner of the world.



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**133**  
mins



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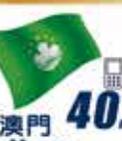
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mins



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mins



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mins

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UAE  
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## LET passers...

From page 1

Launched in late 2014, SPIMS aims to gain back the Filipino overseas workers, particularly the OFW LET or BLEPT passers.

The program also seeks to reverse outbound migration by enhancing the OFWs' skills and providing them option to stay in the Philippines to work as teachers.

"Kapag may item na ako, siguradong uuwi na ako. Kahit walang ipon, siguradong uuwi na ako. May pamilya ako at may dalawang anak. Iyong panganay ko, 10 years old, at iyong bunso, five years old kaya gustong-gusto ko nang umuwi," she told Hong Kong News.

Marquez has recently signed her second contract with her employer in Hong Kong.

On the sidelines of the oath-taking ceremonies of LET or BLEPT passers held at the Philippine Consulate on Mar. 26, Gemma Lauraya, president of the National Organization for Professional Teachers (NOPT), echoed Marquez's statement, saying that most of their members would prefer to return to the Philippines and be with their family.

"Naghihintay sila ng tawag. Iyong iba kapag alam na nilang sigurado na ang item nila, talagang uuwi na sila. Iyong iba skeptical sila sa project kasi iyong iba nauunang nagregister pero nahuhuling natatawagan," Lauraya said.

One of those who had been given an item or assignment was 31-year-old Bettylyn Jacinto, who also passed the BLEPT in September 2016. She was scheduled to fly back to the Philippines on Mar. 31.

"Nagpunta ako dito sa Hong Kong para maka-ipon kahit paano. Two years lang naman itong kontrata ko, at tapos na ang kontrata ko sa April. May naipundar naman ako kahit konti," Jacinto said.

She would be teaching at a primary school in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Not everyone, however, wants to go back to the Philippines immediately. Mary Ann Marchan, 31 and single, said she would still want to stay in Hong Kong and continue working for her employer.

"Ito na ang pangatlong kontrata ko. Maganda naman ang pakikisama ng employer ko at siyempre, maganda din ang sahod ko," said Marchan, whose siblings are also teachers in the Philippines.

Consul-General Bernardita Catalla, who led the oath-taking of the 74 board passers, urged them to go back to the Philippines soon.

"Huwag nating patagalin. We have to take the first steps. Una ay ihanda natin ang ating mga sarili dahil alam nating sa gobyerno kapag nakapasok na tayo, hindi tayo agad na sumusuweldo, kaya dapat mag-impok tayo," she said.

Catalla said those who have worked overseas would be able to share a wealth of experience to their students and their community in the Philippines.

"Marami tayong maisha-share sa kanila na wala sa eskwelahan na natutunan natin dito sa Hong Kong habang tayo ay nagtrabaho," Catalla said.

At least 300 Filipino teacher-returnees, most of them used to work as domestic helpers in Hong Kong, have successfully secured permanent teaching positions through the Department of Education.

"DepEd has reserved 500 slots for this program so the number can still increase," Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said in Manila.

The reintegration program, called "Sa 'Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma'am/Sir," allows OFWs who passed the Licensure Exami-

nation for Teachers to apply and be employed by the education department as teachers.

"We aim to provide decent and sustainable work for returning OFWs as public school teachers," Bello said.

"It has also helped ease the country's insufficient supply of public school teachers especially in the provinces and remote areas," he said.

The program covers OFWs who have returned to the Philippines in the last three years and had teaching experience in the past five years.

Those who have no teaching experience at all, or those whose teaching experience was interrupted for more than past five years, will undergo an online refresher course.

Those interested to avail of the program may check [www.nrcdo.gov.ph](http://www.nrcdo.gov.ph), while online application forms are available at <http://tiny.cc/ofwletpassers>.

Labor Attache Jalilo dela Torre said they would hold another BLEPT here in Hong Kong, but would want to tap a reputable review institution to help prepare those who are taking the exam.

As for the Civil Service Exams, Dela Torre said they would be holding it in October, but would also need to tap a group to help in the review of examinees.

"I just want to make sure na may review classes para ma-improve naman iyong ating passing rate," he said.

## New posts for top PCG officials

By Cheryl M. Arcibal and Maia Lopez

THE two top officials of the Philippine Consulate General are set to leave soon for new assignments.

President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed Philippine consul general to Hong Kong Bernardita Catalla as the country's ambassador to Lebanon.

In a text message, Catalla said her nomination as ambassador to Lebanon is still subject to the confirmation of the Commission of Appointments.

"We have no word yet as to who will replace her," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said.

Catalla was appointed by then President Benigno Aquino III as consul general to Hong Kong in 2014.

She has previously headed the DFA's Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs and has earlier served as consul at the Philippine embassy in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Deputy Consul General Christian de Jesus is set to leave Hong Kong for a post in Seoul, South Korea. His new assignment is considered a promotion as he would be appointed as Consul in the Philippine Embassy there.

Deric Atienza, who is serving as first secretary and consul general in Seoul, will be replacing De Jesus.



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- Fingerprint

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- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
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- Dual SIM

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- 0.3 MP Rear
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- Spreadtrum SC6531D
- 32MB RAM
- 2G

Price **\$99**  
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- 1.3GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

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- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

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- 8GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 3G
- Dual SIM

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- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 3G
- Dual SIM

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- 32GB Storage
- 2.15GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

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**Samsung Galaxy C5 C5000 (32 GB)**



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- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.2GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
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- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,198**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$167**

**Samsung Galaxy J5 Prime G5700**



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,790**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$415**

**Samsung Galaxy J1 (2016) J120**



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- 5MP Rear + 2MP Front
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6 Monthly **\$215**

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- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$999**  
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6 Monthly **\$224**

**Huawei Y6 Pro**



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
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**Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro C9000** NEW



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- 64GB Storage
- 1.44GHz Octa Core
- 6GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,798**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$917**

**Sony Xperia F3116**



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- 16GB Storage
- 1.6GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,790**  
Down **\$99**  
6 Monthly **\$431**

**Sony Xperia XZS**



- 5.2 Inch
- 19MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.6GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$5,298**  
Down **\$699**  
6 Monthly **\$1,208**

**Samsung Galaxy C7 Pro** NEW



- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.2GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,298**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$792**

**Asus Zenfone 3 Max ZC520TL** Low Downpayment



- 5.2 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.25GHz Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,599**  
Down **\$159**  
6 Monthly **\$374**

**Apple iPhone 7 - 256GB**



- 4.7 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 7MP Front
- 256GB Storage
- A10 Fusion Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- iOS 10
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$6,998**  
Down **\$1,399**  
6 Monthly **\$1,514**

**Apple iPhone 7 - 128 GB**



- 4.7 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 7MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- A10 Fusion Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- iOS 10
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$6,188**  
Down **\$1,299**  
6 Monthly **\$1,331**

**Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge G9350**



- 5.1 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$4,690**  
Down **\$699**  
6 Monthly **\$1,056**

**Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge 128 GB**



- 5.1 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$5,390**  
Down **\$899**  
6 Monthly **\$1,198**

**HTC Desire 10 Pro**



- 5.5 Inch
- 20MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 1.8GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$2,998**  
Down **\$0**  
6 Monthly **\$750**

**Huawei P9 Lite**



- 5.2 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.7GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$2,180**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$512**

**Huawei P9 Plus**



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.5GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$4,880**  
Down **\$1,830**  
6 Monthly **\$915**

**Huawei Nova Plus**



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.2GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$3,080**  
Down **\$0**  
6 Monthly **\$770**

**Huawei Nova**



- 5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.0GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$2,780**  
Down **\$1,043**  
6 Monthly **\$522**

**Apple iPhone 7 Plus 128GB**



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 7MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- A10 Fusion Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- iOS 10
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$7,968**  
Down **\$1,999**  
6 Monthly **\$1,659**

**Apple iPhone 7 Plus 256GB**



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 7MP Front
- 256GB Storage
- A10 Fusion Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- iOS 10
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$8,188**  
Down **\$1,999**  
6 Monthly **\$1,714**

**Asus Zenfone 3 Zoom**



- 5.5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.0GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,998**  
Down **\$599**  
6 Monthly **\$900**

**Asus Zenfone 3 Max ZC553KL** Low Downpayment



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$1,999**  
Down **\$99**  
6 Monthly **\$484**

**Sony Xperia X Dual 5112**



- 5 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Hexa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,298**  
Down **\$0**  
6 Monthly **\$825**

**Sony Xperia X Performance**



- 5 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.6GHz Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,990**  
Down **\$299**  
6 Monthly **\$948**

**LG K10 (2017)**



- 5.3 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.14GHz Octa Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,698**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$392**

**LG K10 (LTE)** Low Downpayment



- 5.3 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.14GHz Octa Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,390**  
Down **\$179**  
6 Monthly **\$318**

**HTC Desire 728**



- 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3 GHz Octa Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6 with HTC Sense™
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,790**  
Down **\$0**  
6 Monthly **\$448**

**HTC One X9**



- 5.5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.0GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6 with HTC Sense™
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$2,190**  
Down **\$499**  
6 Monthly **\$465**

**HTC 10**



- 5.2 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.6GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6 with HTC Sense™
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$3,998**  
Down **\$0**  
6 Monthly **\$1,000**

**HTC U Play** NEW



- 5.2 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16 Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.6GHz Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$3,498**  
Down **\$399**  
6 Monthly **\$808**

**HTC U Ultra**



- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 12MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.15GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 HTC Sense™
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$5,698**  
Down **\$899**  
6 Monthly **\$1,257**

**Huawei Mate 9**



- 5.9 Inch
- 20MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.4GHz Quad Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 HTC Sense™
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$4,780**  
Down **\$1,793**  
6 Monthly **\$897**

**Samsung Galaxy C5 Pro C5010**



- 5.2 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16 Front
- 64GB Storage
- 2.2GHz Octa Core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$2,998**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$717**

**Sony XPERIA X Compact**



- 4.6 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Hexa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,998**  
Down **\$499**  
6 Monthly **\$677**

**Sony XPERIA XA1**



- 5 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.3GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$2,998**  
Down **\$199**  
6 Monthly **\$592**

**Sony XPERIA XZ**



- 5.2 Inch
- 23MP Rear + 13MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 1.6GHz Quad Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

Price **\$5,190**  
Down **\$599**  
6 Monthly **\$1,198**



**Philips Shine Protect Hair Dryer HP821903**



Price **\$358**  
Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$86**

**Rasonic Mini Rice Cooker RRC-Y5H**



Price **\$219**  
Down **\$29**  
6 Monthly **\$52**

**Panasonic Wrist Blood Pressure Meter EWBW10**



Price **\$510**  
Down **\$159**  
6 Monthly **\$101**

**Samsung 28" UA28K4005**



Price **\$2,690**  
Down **\$299**  
6 Monthly **\$623**

**Panasonic Silent Hair Dryer EHND51**



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Down **\$79**  
6 Monthly **\$40**

**Philips Hair Dryer HP8112/03**



Price **\$129**  
Down **\$39**  
6 Monthly **\$52**

**Panasonic Electric Rice Cooker SR-ZE185 1.8L**



Price **\$848**  
Down **\$99**  
6 Monthly **\$203**

**Panasonic Rice Cooker SR-JN105**



Price **\$359**  
Down **\$79**  
6 Monthly **\$80**

**Samsung 32" UA32K4003**



Price **\$2,590**  
Down **\$399**  
6 Monthly **\$581**

**Samsung 32" UA32K5005**



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Down **\$499**  
6 Monthly **\$740**

**Philips Essentialcare Hair Dryer BHD00603**



Price **\$218**  
Down **\$39**  
6 Monthly **\$52**

**Panasonic Eyelash Curler EH2300**



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6 Monthly **\$21**

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6 Monthly **\$90**

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6 Monthly **\$65**

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Down **\$79**  
6 Monthly **\$83**

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Price **\$2,590**  
Down **\$299**  
6 Monthly **\$598**

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Price **\$2,390**  
Down **\$299**  
6 Monthly **\$548**

**Philips Essentialcare Ionic Straightener HP832403**



Price **\$278**  
Down **\$39**  
6 Monthly **\$68**

**Panasonic Ionity Hair Brush EHHE10**



Price **\$280**  
Down **\$99**  
6 Monthly **\$54**

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Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$102**

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Down **\$59**  
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6 Monthly **\$106**

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Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$123**

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Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$163**

**Kenwood Blender BLP011**



Price **\$499**  
Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$123**

**Kenwood Sandwich Maker SM650**



Price **\$498**  
Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$123**

**Panasonic NN-SM332 Microwave**



Price **\$769**  
Down **\$99**  
6 Monthly **\$183**

**Panasonic PJ-225 Water Purifier**



Price **\$328**  
Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$75**

**Panasonic Men Shaver ES534**



Price **\$56**  
Down **\$19**  
6 Monthly **\$12**

**Philips Hairclipper HC3410/13**



Price **\$338**  
Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$81**

**Kenwood Toaster TTM020**



Price **\$628**  
Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$158**

**Kenwood Weighing Scales DS401**



Price **\$319**  
Down **\$59**  
6 Monthly **\$76**

**Sony Radio ICF-P26**



Price **\$138**  
Down **\$29**  
6 Monthly **\$32**

**Sony Radio ICF-P306**



Price **\$?**  
Down **\$?**  
6 Monthly **\$?**

# New diplomatic protest vs China

By Maia Lopez

THE Philippines has filed another diplomatic protest against China over reported plans to install a radar station in the resource-rich Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal).

"We have sought clarification from China on their reported plans on Scarborough Shoal," Foreign Affairs spokesman

Charles Jose said after the Philippines sent a note verbale to the Chinese embassy in Manila.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying, for her part, denied the alleged construction plan, stressing that Beijing was for "the preservation of the South China Sea's ocean ecology."

"According to the relevant bodies in China, the reports you mention that touch upon building environmental monitoring stations on Scarborough Shoal are mistaken. These things are not true," Hua said.

"With regards to Scarborough Shoal, China's position is consistent and clear. We place great importance on China-Philippines relations," she added.

Panatag Shoal, also known as Bajo de Masinloc, sits within the country's 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

The filing of the diplomatic protest was prompted by reports from state-owned Hainan Daily that China plans to build its an environmental monitoring station.



Panatag Shoal

## Cigar firm faces P9.56B tax raps

By Maia Lopez

THE government has filed a P9.56 billion tax evasion case against the owner of cigarette company Mighty Corp. and its officials for allegedly using fake tax stamps to avoid paying excise taxes.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue filed charges against Mighty Corp. owner Alexander Wongchuking, company president Edilberto Adan, executive vice president Oscar Barrientos, and treasurer Ernesto Victa for violating the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Susan Dacanay, chairperson of the Justice Department's Run After Tax Evaders Task Force, received the complaint.

The BIR said the cigarette firm, which was the subject of an on-the-spot surveillance operation, was found using counterfeit stamps during random tests done at its four warehouses.

"The inventory showed that Mighty Corp. stored 66,281 master cases containing 33,140,500 packs of cigarettes. The investigation further showed that 87.5 percent of [these] bore fake revenue stamps," the BIR said.

The BIR also noted that the stamps were not affixed at the production plant as required by law.

It said the company failed to present official delivery receipts, which meant that the cigarette packs in the warehouses did not come from Mighty's manufacturing plant in Barangay Tikay where the stamps should have been affixed.

Earlier, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said Mighty Corp. gave in to President Rodrigo Duterte's offer to pay P3 billion to settle its excise tax liabilities.

But Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III found the amount too small, saying the Bulacan-based cigarette manufacturer must pay 10 times over its assessed liability to the government.

Dominguez has also urged supermarkets selling Mighty cigarettes to seek BIR help to check if their merchandise bore fake tax stamps.

"They should surrender the fake stamps to us, the cartons with fake stamps," Dominguez said. "They can call the BIR. The BIR has a way to check, they have devices to check."

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# Oust bid vs Du30, Leni

By **Maia Lopez**

IMPEACHMENT complaints were filed against President Rodrigo Duterte and Vice President Leni Robredo for betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution, among others, barely nine months since they took office.

The Magdalo party-list group filed the complaint against Duterte, accusing him as well of bribery and graft and corruption.

The case, according to Rep. Gary Alejano, could serve as a vehicle for the Filipino people to voice out their disgust over the administration's alleged crimes and abuses, including the killings related to Duterte's war against drugs.

"We believe he should answer for his crimes. We don't want the people to accept that it is legal to kill in this country," Alejano said.

In the 16-page impeachment complaint, Alejano accused the President of committing high crimes of bribery, multiple

murder and crimes against humanity when he adopted a state policy of encouraging policemen, law enforcement authorities, and vigilante groups into killing suspected drug suspects.

The solon also claimed Duterte is not fit to lead the country, citing his reported involvement in multiple murders as the alleged mastermind of the Davao Death Squad, a vigilante group that gained notoriety when Duterte was still mayor of Davao City.

Alejano added that Duterte must be held answerable for allegedly having numerous secret bank accounts worth P2.207 billion and properties that he failed to declare in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net worth.

Robredo, who has since resigned as member of Duterte's Cabinet, also found herself facing an impeachment complaint filed before the House of Representatives.

Oliver Lozano and Melchor Chavez, who have been previously identified with

the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan party of the Marcoses but represented themselves as members of Volunteers for Good Government, accused Robredo of being a "termite of the government."

Their six-page complaint cited Robredo's video message criticizing the administration's bloody anti-drug campaign which was played during a side event organized by one of the participants to a recent forum of the United Nations Commission on Narcotics.

"Her unfaithfulness has extended to the betrayal of the public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution," the two complainants said in their letter to Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

A group of lawyers and professors, on the other hand, said they are also planning to file an impeachment complaint against the Vice President. Alvarez has expressed his desire to pursue the impeachment process against Robredo, but immediately dismissed the complaint against Duterte.

## Peace talks between Reds, GRP to resume

PEACE negotiations between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front will resume in April, two months after President Rodrigo Duterte announced the termination of the talks and threatened to "flatten the hills with bombs" and fight for another 50 years to crush the rebel group.

Negotiators from both sides met in backchannel talks in Utrecht early this month where they agreed to revive the collapsed peace gab.

Both parties have also agreed to reinstate their respective unilateral ceasefires as a sign of good faith and to ensure the smooth resumption of the negotiations.

Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said the ceasefires would serve as "a prelude" to an interim bilateral cessation of hostilities, but admitted that more meetings would be needed to hammer out its guidelines and mechanisms.

The Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees, which Duterte also terminated, has been restored to allow NDF consultants who are in jail or are in hiding to join the negotiations.

"President Duterte himself closely monitored the efforts taken by the negotiators while in Utrecht in bringing about an early breakthrough in the talks," Dureza said.

Duterte, who considers himself a socialist, reopened the stalled peace talks with the CPP

immediately after taking office last year.

The President, however, called off the negotiations after the members of the New People's Army, the CPP-NDF's armed wing, killed soldiers in a series of attacks.

Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Erik Førner said the talks will be held at the seaside town of Noordwijk in the Netherlands on April 2 to 6.

"I am pleased that representatives of the Philippine government and the NDF will meet for a new round of talks. Despite challenges along the way, the parties continue to show their commitment to peace," Førner said.

The fourth round of talks will focus on issues such as social and economic reforms and the crafting of a bilateral ceasefire agreement, the Royal Norwegian Embassy said.

The CPP said it will issue a unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire not later than March 31.

The party also noted that at least 19 elderly and sick political prisoners, as well as four detained NDF consultants and one other recently rearrested, will soon be released.

Despite the ceasefire, though, communist rebels said there will be no let-up in tactical offensives since the military has not pulled out as well.

Maia Lopez



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## 2 Bedans get Supreme Court posts

By **Maia Lopez**

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has appointed two fellow Bedans to the Supreme Court.

Duterte first appointed Sandiganbayan associate justice Samuel Martires to the High Court, followed by Court of Appeals associate justice Noel Tijam.

Martires and Tijam are the first two SC justices appointed by Duterte, who will get to handpick at least 11 more justices during his term.

By the time Duterte's term ends in 2022,

only three Supreme Court justices will not be his appointees, namely Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno (retiring in 2030), Associate Justice Marvic Leonen (retiring in 2032), and Associate Justice Benjamin Caguioa (retiring in 2030).

The President also appointed Taguig City judge Louis Acosta as associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

Chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo defended Duterte's decision to appoint fellow Bedans.

"There is nothing wrong with it as long as they're qualified," Panelo said.

Duterte also appointed retired Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya as the new chief of the National Irrigation Administration.

Visaya replaced Duterte's campaign spokesman Peter Laviña, who was fired amid corruption issues three months after assuming the NIA post.

Former foreign affairs secretary Albert Romulo, for his part, was chosen by the President as chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines. Undersecretary Enrique Manalo has been designated as acting head of the DFA.

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## OFW suicides in HK

COMPARED to the 200,000-strong Filipino community in Hong Kong, the number of Pinoys here presumed to have committed suicide is tiny.

However, every presumed suicide always sends shock waves to the entire Filipino community here.

Every presumed suicide reflects extremely serious problems -- mental, emotional and psychological -- that the victim went through before giving up all hope and finally deciding to end his or her own life, regardless of its consequence to loved ones left behind.

Every suicide is sad, tragic and

heart-rending.

Can something be done to reduce to the barest minimum suicides among Pinoys in Hong Kong?

Certainly! But it will take concerted efforts, vision and dedication on the different segments of Hong Kong's Filipino community.

For a start, the consulate should convene a forum to identify the root causes, formulate solutions and implement remedial actions via a multi-lateral body, comprising government, NGOs, OFW leaders and other concerned parties.

## Health Alert

## Joyful Fruit Month 2017

FRUIT is rich in water, vitamins, minerals and dietary fibre and is thus very good for health. Adequate intake of fruit and vegetables can reduce the risks of diseases such as heart diseases, stroke and certain kinds of cancer. The Department of Health recommends all adults to eat at least two servings of fruit a day. However, based on a survey in 2014, most of the adults interviewed failed to eat enough fruit daily.

### What counts a serving?

One serving of fruit is about 80 grams. Adults should take at least 160 grams of fruit every day.

One serving of fruit is approximately defined as:

- 2 pieces of small-sized fruit (e.g. plum, kiwifruit)
- 1 piece of medium-sized fruit (e.g. orange, apple, tangerine)
- ½ piece of large-sized fruit (e.g. banana, grapefruit, star fruit)
- ½ bowl\* of fruit cuts (e.g. watermelon, cantaloupe, melon)
- ½ bowl\* of mini-sized fruit (e.g. grapes, cherries, strawberries)
- 1 tablespoon (about 15ml) of dried fruit without added sugar or salt (e.g. raisin, prune)
- ¾ glass (about 180ml) of pure fruit juice<sup>^</sup> without added sugar (e.g. pure orange juice with pulp)

Remark \*: 1 bowl = 250-300ml

Remark ^: Compared to a whole fruit, pure fruit juice contains less dietary fibre but a much higher sugar content. It is therefore better to eat whole fruit in order to meet the recommended daily intake. Besides, it is worth noting that consuming pure fruit juice in excess to ¾ glass (180ml) would still be counted as taking one serving of fruit only.

### What is not counted as one serving of fruit?

All fresh, canned and frozen fruits are counted into the recommended daily fruit intake, except:

- Fruit added with a lot of sugar (e.g. dessert)
- Fruit containing high fat content (e.g. coconut, durian and avocado)

Therefore, it is recommended to eat different kinds of fruit to absorb different kinds of nutrients.

### Joyful Fruit Month 2017

The "Joyful Fruit Month" is launched by the Department of Health to promote the habit of eating fruit daily. It first started as the "Joyful Fruit Day" event in 2006/2007 school year, which promoted daily fruit intake among primary school students. In view of its popularity, the activity was extended to secondary schools and pre-primary institutions in the following year.

## As We See it



## Currents

Norman Uy  
Carnay

## Kwento ni Flor

KAILAN ba matatapos ang kwento ni Flor? Marso 17, 1995 nang hatulan ng kamatayan si Flor Contemplacion sa Singapore sa kontrobersyal na kaso. Parang bulkang sumabog ang naipong sentimiyento ng mamamayang Pilipino. Nalantad ang kawalan ng serbisyo ng pamahalaan sa maraming OFWs.

Dahil dito, nagkumahog ang administrasyon ni Fidel Ramos na ipasa ang Migrant Workers Act upang diumano'y proteksyunan ang mga migrante sa kaparehong kapalarang sinapit ni Flor. Subalit 22 taon makalipas, hindi pa rin natuldukan ang kwento ng mga Flor.

Sabi ng dating Pangulong Ramos, wala nang susunod kay Flor. Pero batid nating lahat na simula 1995, hindi naman gumanda ang situwasyon. Sa totoo lang, nagpatuloy ang pagdami ng mga kasong katulad ng kay Flor. Kadalasa'y mga nasangkot sa mga pagpatay. Pero dahil hindi agad nabigyan ng legal assistance

at abogado ng ating pamahalaan, ay nahatulan ng bitay. Aaksyon na lamang ang gobyerno kapag i-apela na ang kaso dahil lumapit na ang pamilya sa mga progresibong grupo tulad ng Migrant International. Kakalampagin naman ng Migrante ang gobyerno at publiko at pagsisikapang iligtas ang buhay ng kababayan natin.

Hindi ba't ito ang kadalasang kwento? Pinakamarami ngang nabitay ay noong panahon ni dating Pangulong Benigno Aquino. Anim na bitay sa anim na taon niyang panunungkulan.

Dalawampung taon matapos ni Flor, nakahanay pa rin ang 71 sa death row sa iba't ibang bansa ayon mismo sa datos ng DFA. Isa na rito si Jennifer Dalquez. Nahatulan siya ng bitay kahit na pinagtanggol lamang niya ang sarili sa isang Arabo na napatay niya dahil siya'y pinatangkaang gahasain. Pero nabigyan lang siya ng abogado ng Embahada nang

i-apela na ang hatol sa kanya. Noong siya ay na-aresto at litisin, hindi man lamang siya nabigyan ng abogado o translator. Kwentong kahalintulad ng kay Flor.

Ngayon sa administrasyon ni Pangulong Duterte, pinangako rin niya, tulad ng nagdaang mga presidente na "Ito na ang huling henerasyon ng mga OFWs"; na mawawakasan na ang patuloy na pag-export ng mga Pilipino at matitigil na ang mga kasong tulad nito.

Pero tulad ng nagdaang mga administrasyon, hindi pa rin napapangalagaan ang kaligtasan ng mga OFWs sa labas ng bansa. Nito lamang Enero 2017, mabilisang nabitay ang isang domestic worker sa Kuwait na si Jakatia Pawa.

Nalalagay sa bingit ang pangako ng Pangulo hangga't hindi niya nahaharap ang mga kaso ng katulad ni Jennifer at ilan pang mga nasa death row. Agarang ayuda mula sa pamahalaan ang kailangan upang iligtas ang ating mga kababayan.

## Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,

Isang magapalang araw sa inyong lahat!

Isa akong masugid na tagasubaybay ng inyong pahayagan. Nagpasya akong sumulat dahil sa nais ko lang magpaalala sa aking mga kapwa OFWs na maging maingat sa mga transaksyong ginagawa para lang makautang. Nabahala ako sa kalalabas na balita kung saan napakaraming passports ang napasamang nakuha sa isang operation ng mga pulis sa diumanoy loan shark na nambibiktima kung saan ginagamit ang passport o kontrata bilang kolateral.

Naisip ko palagi pag naaalala ko ang balitang ito paano na kaya ang kahihinatnan ng mga nabik-

tima, paano kaya nila makukuha ang kani-kanilang passports? Ang tanging konsolasyon ko na lang sa bumabagabag na tanong na ito ay alam ko naming di magpapabaya ang ating Konsulado. I am confident na gagawin nila ang kani-kanilang makakaya na maayos ang gusot na idinulot ng pangyayaring ito. Taos-pusong pasasalamat sa mga opisyal ng ating Konsulado na laging handang tumulong upang isulong ang kapakanan naming mga OFWs.

Sa pamamagitan ng inyong kolum nais kong paalalahanan ang aking mga kapwa OFWs na ang passport natin ay bawal na gawing kolateral. Maging matalino at mapanuri nang sa ganun ay di malagay sa

mga situwasyong alanganin at maging isang biktima. Makakatulong sa ating lahat ang awareness at discernment di lang sa usapin ng utang bukod sa lahat ng bagay lalo na sa mga ipinagbabawal ng batas. Tayo ay dayuhan lamang dito sa Hong Kong marapat lang na sumunod tayo sa kani-kanilang batas.

Maraming salamat sa inyo, HK News Editorial Staff sa pagbibigay ng pagkakataong malathala ang aking liham. Nawa'y magsilbi itong "gentle reminder" sa ating mga OFWs upang maiwasan ang masangkot sa gusot. Muli taos-pusong pasasalamat. Mabuhay!

Lubos na Gumagalang, Rowena M.

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Cheryl M. Arcibal Associate Editor

Belinda Bacani-Canezo Sales & Marketing Mgr

Joko Harjanto Assistant Sales Mgr

Nin Tang Senior Designer

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**GALLERY**

Mary Kay "Dream Beautiful" contest unveils the face of Mary Kay Asia Pacific.



Mommy Sonia with Culinary Arts Centre students taking up Asian and Western cooking



Aimie Camosa (right) is one of the winners of free regular boxes from Gen-Ex Cargo's 18th Anniversary promo "Pack & Win"



Lorna Gubatan (right) is also one of the February winners of Gen-Ex Cargo's 18th Anniversary promo "Pack & Win"

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Third to right: SmarTone executives Tracy Law CEO (Macau), Cindy Leung Assistant General Manager (HK) and Lawrence Yeung Sales Manager (HK)



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The Art of Sushi Making



Pasta Course

By Ally Constantino

SMARTONE, who has been in the Telecommunications industry for over a decade and also the leading wireless communications carrier in Hong Kong, went all-out in its official Macau launch held last Mar. 19.

Giving away a total of P1 Million, in the form of recharge vouchers, SmarTone held its maiden event at the Galaxy Broadway Theater, Macau.

Philippine Consul-General for Macau Lilybeth Deapera and SmarTone executives Tracy Law CEO (Macau), Cindy Leung Assistant General Manager (HK) and Lawrence Yeung Sales Manager (HK) were among the VIP guests during the event.

Besides the prizes, the attendees were also treated to performances of singers and lots of free food and drinks.

The grand prize of P195,000 went to lucky Macau Barkadahan subscriber Evangeline Sarturio.

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GLOBAL BUDGET 12x12x14	170	190		

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# Couple jailed for starving Pinay helper

By Maia Lopez

A Singaporean couple who starved their Filipino domestic helper until she weighed just 29 kilograms (64 pounds) was slapped with imprisonment and a fine of \$7,200. Lim Choon Hong, 48, was sentenced to

three weeks in jail while his wife Chong Sui Foon, also 48, was ordered imprisoned for three months.

The court ruling was described as "shocking" by prosecutors, who are appealing for stiffer sentences.

The couple was convicted last year for

violating employment laws, in particular for failing to provide enough food for their maid, Thelma Oyasan Gawidan, for 15 months from 2013 and 2014.

Gawidan stayed at the couple's condominium in the posh Orchard Road area.

State prosecutors described the system-

atic starvation as "downright shocking in its extremity and severity." They have already filed an appeal to secure a higher sentence for a maximum of 12 months.

Gawidan, who is in her 40s, lost almost 20 kilograms during the time she spent working for the couple.



Lim and Chong

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**Wild Coverage in Philippines**

## 5 Filipinos nabbed in Malaysia over ISIS links

By Maia Lopez

MALAYSIAN police have arrested seven people, including five Filipinos, for suspected links to the Islamic State terrorist group.

Malaysian Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar said most of the arrests were made in Sabah.

One of the Filipino suspects, who has a permanent residency in Malaysia, was detained on suspicion of raising funds and channelling them to two Malaysians who have joined terrorist groups that have pledged allegiance to ISIS in the southern Philippines.

Khalid said another suspect was plan-

ning to travel to Syria to fight with the Islamic State there, while a third one was found to have pledged allegiance to Isnilon Hapilon, leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group and the chosen head of the ISIS Southeast Asian faction.

Two other Filipino suspects, a man and a woman, were arrested for smuggling in three Islamic State members from Malaysia and Indonesia to the southern Philippines through Sabah, Khalid added.

The Philippine government has asked for "further information" from the Malaysian police regarding the five terror suspects. President Rodrigo Duterte confirmed the presence of Islamic State jihadists in war-torn Mindanao.

### Saudi, Japan need foreign nurses

SAUDI Arabia and Japan are in need of foreign nurses, and Filipinos are encouraged to apply, the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency said.

POEA said 500 slots for nurses are open in Saudi Arabia while 150 are open in Japan, which is also in need of 600 care workers.

Taiwan, on the other hand, is in need of 50 female factory machine operators.

According to the POEA, the job openings were made possible by government-to-government deals, which guarantee employment to qualified applicants.

"They do not have to pay anything except for the processing fee of about P5,000 which already covers PhilHealth and OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration) fees," said Rosemarie Duquez of POEA's placement branch.

Filipino nurses who want to apply in Japan must be aged 20 to 35 years old, must have three years of hospital experience, and must have an active nursing license.

Nursing graduates who have yet to pass the board exam but have a diploma from a four-year course and caregiver certification from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority are also welcome to apply as careworkers in Japan.

Applicants to Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, need to have three years' experience working as a nurse or in a nursing-related field.

The POEA reminded the public that these vacancies are only available through the government agency as it warned against illegal recruiters.

Maia Lopez

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# Kinain ang baon ng alaga

By Imelda Mae **Bustinera**

BAGO bumaba para pumasok ang alaga ni Violeta, taga-Bulacan at hiwalay at may isang anak, ay nagbilin na dalhan lang siya ng tinapay na ganung uri dahil wala daw siyang mahabang oras para sa tanghalian.

Bago bumalik ang among babae ay sinabihan si Violeta na bumili ng tinapay at bilhin din ang uri na gusto ng alaga bukod sa para sa kanilang lahat.

Pagkabili ni Violeta ay inilapag niya muna sa mesa dahil hindi pa naman oras para ihatid ang baon ng kanyang alaga.

Paggising ng among lalaki nagpahanda

ito ng almusal niya.

Nang ihain ni Violeta ang almusal ng amo ay napansin niyang nakatiwangwang na ang pinagbalutan ng tinapay at wala na itong laman.

Napa “aya” si Violeta at sinabi na ibabaon niya sana iyon para sa kanyang alaga.

Naalala niya na iyon rin pala ang paborito ng lalaki.

Walang nagawa si Violeta kung hindi bumili na lang uli.

Sa loob niya ano kaya kung nagkataon na siya ang kumain na hindi rin alam, siguro nakarinig siya ng masasakit na salita.



Kinain ng among lalaki ang tinapay na para sana sa kanyang alaga

## Tapat mo, linis mo!

By Vicks Reyes **Munar**

SI Baby, 50, tubong Isabela at 15 taon nang nagtrabaho sa Hongkong ay isa sa napakaraming Pilipina na nagiging tambayan na o pwesto ang tulay sa Admiralty.

Tuwing Linggo, sa lugar na ito sila nagkikita-kitang magkakaibigan. Nagsisilbi na nilang tahanan ang parteng ito ng tulay kung saan mas lumalalim ang kanilang samahan.

Madalas silang kumakain sa lugar, may sayawan din minsan lalo na kung mayroong nagdaraos ng kaarawan. Sa tuwing matatapos ang day-off, pansin ni Baby na punong-puno ng basura o kalat ang kanilang pwesto.

Matiyaga niyang pinupulot ang mga kalat nilang magkakaibigan. May isang nagsabi sa kanya na hayaan na lang niya ang kalat dahil may maglilinis naman na binabayaran ng gobyerno ng Hong Kong subalit hindi niya ito pinakinggan.

Naging “habit” na ni Baby ang ganitong paglilinis ng kanilang mga kalat. Naisipan na rin niyang magdala ng black rubbish bag kung saan isinasabit niya ito sa mistulang bakod na malapit sa kanilang pwesto. Dito na nila nilalagay ang kani-kanilang mga kalat.

Napansin ni Baby na ang kanyang mga kaibigan na dating “deadma” at kontra sa ginagawa nya ay unti-unting nakikicooperate sa kanyang munting paraan na mapanatili ang kalinisan ng lugar.

Tuwang-tuwa siya sa mga pagbabagong ito sa kanyang mga kasamahan. Wala mang kibuan naging automatic na sa kanilang lahat na siguraduhin na walang kalat ang kanilang pwesto.

Nadagdagan pa ang kanyang kasiyahan nang mapansin din niya na ang kanilang mga kalapit na pwesto ay ginagawa na rin ang kanyang sinimulan. Kung nuon ay mistulang bundok ng basura ang lahat ng bahaging iyon ng tulay ngayon ay marami na silang naninigurado na huwag iiwang marumi ang lugar na nagsisilbi nilang kanlungan sa kanilang araw ng pahinga.

Pinangarap at umaasa si Baby na sana lahat ng kanyang mga kapwa OFWs ay maisipan ding makiisa sa kanyang natanang kampanya tungo sa kalinisan, ang “Tapat mo, Linis mo!”

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# Michael V. signs new contract with GMA7

Award-winning comedian and TV host Michael V. continues his journey as a Kapuso as he renewed his contract on Mar. 15 with GMA Network Inc.

The Kapuso comedy genius said he is very happy to renew his ties with GMA 7 which has been his home network for more than two decades.

“Twenty-one years na akong Kapuso. Ito talaga yung bahay ko. Sinubukan kong gumawa ng project sa ibang Network pero dito talaga yung puso ko, hindi ko maaalis.

“Isa pa, masaya ako sa ganda ng relasyon ko with everyone here to the point na parang hindi na boss yung turing ko sa kanila, kung hindi parang kamag-anak na,” he said.

At present, Bitoy headlines two of the Network’s multi-awarded programs: the longest-running gag show Bubble Gang and well-loved family sitcom Pepito

**MICHAEL V.**

Manaloto.

He shared that he is very happy and thankful with the viewers’ incessant support to his shows all these years.

“Actually, kaya kami running pa rin ngayon ay dahil sa viewers.

Kaya naman makakaasa sila na may iba pang mga dadagdag at bibisita. Para yun sa kanila e. Sabi ko nga, they inspire us. Sa kanila kami humuhugot ng inspirasyon o idea so masaya ako sa suporta nila sa amin since then,” he said.”

Present in the contract signing were GMA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Atty. Felipe L. Gozon, GMA President and Chief Operating Officer Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr., GMA Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Felipe S.

Yalong, GMA Entertainment TV’s Senior Vice President Lilybeth G. Rasonable, and GMA Vice President for Drama Productions Redgie Acuña-Magno

Also present were GMA Vice President for Business Development Department III Darling de Jesus Bodegon, GMA Senior Assistant Vice President for Business Development Department II Janine Pidad-Nacar, GMA Senior Assistant Vice President for Alternative Productions Gigi Santiago-Lara, GMA Assistant Vice President for Drama Productions Cheryl Ching-Sy, Senior Program Managers Bang Arespacochaga and Camille Hermoso Hafezan and Bitoy’s wife and manager Carolina Bunagan.

During the contract signing, Atty. Gozon said he is delighted that Bitoy continues to affirm his loyalty to the Kapuso Network.

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## Paolo sinorpresa si LJ sa 'Beauty and the Beast'

By **Cristy Kasilag**

HINDI pinalagpas ng mga taga-showbizlandia ang panood ng bagong Disney movie na “Beauty and the Beast”.

Ngunit para sa aktres na si Lourn Jane “LJ” Reyes ang palabas na “Beauty and the Beast” ang pinaka-memorable hindi lamang dahil ang pelikulang ito ang pinakapaborito niya sa mga Disney movies pero dahil sa sorpresa ng kanyang boyfriend na si Paolo Contis.

Nakakakilig ang ginawa ni Paolo para sa kanyang nobya. Dahil sa hectic schedule ni LJ, na gumaganap na kontrabida sa pang hapon na palabas sa GMA7 na “Pinulot Ka Lang sa Lupa”, ay may mga pagkakataon na madalang silang magkita ng nobyo.

Nuong ika-14 ng Marso ay ika-33 na kaarawan ni Paolo. At pinangako ni LJ sa kanya na gagawan niya ng paraan para makapag movie date silang dalawa kasama ang anak ni LJ na si Aki. Anak ni LJ si Aki sa dati nitong karelasyon na si Paulo Avelino.

Naiba sa kaugalian na ang binibigyan ng sorpresa ay ang may kaarawan dahil sa panahon na ito kahit si Paolo ang nag-celebrate ng kanyang birthday ay siya pa ang nagbigay ng sorpresa kay LJ, ang prinsesa ng kanyang buhay. Nabigla si LJ na nung pumasok na sila ng sinehan para manuod ng “Beauty and the Beast” ay sila lamang ang tao sa loob. Pati si Aki ay nagtaka.

Ni-rentahan pala ni Paolo ang sinehan para kay LJ dahil ito ang paborito niyang palabas. Sa sobrang tuwa ay naiyak si LJ.

# Happy Easter!



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<b>HALF</b> 24x14x20	\$380	\$410	\$430	\$450
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## Horoscope

**Capricorn** December 22 to January 19  
Magbakasyon ka muna at iwasan ang mga taong nagpapahamak sa iyo. Lumayo ka sa kanila.

**Aquarius** January 20 to February 18  
Kailangan mo ng focus at balance sa buhay. Para sa ngayon at kinabukasan, hindi uubrang ipagpasa-bukas dahil baka maubos ang iyong panahon at maging huli na ang lahat.

**Pisces** February 19 to March 20  
May matatanggap kang balita na ikakagulat mo. Abangan mo ito at planuhin ang karapat-dapat na reaksyon.

**Aries** March 21 to April 19  
Mag-ingat ka hindi lamang sa kilos kundi sa mga bibitawan mong salita. Walng tiyak sa buhay, lalo na sa pakikisalamuha sa iba,

**Taurus** April 20 to May 20  
May mga bagay na hindi mo dapat ipagmalaki lalo na kung hindi pa nangyayari. Manahimik ka muna baka pag naikwento mo sa iba ay masulot pa ang proyekto sa iyo.

**Gemini** May 21 to June 20  
May mga taong ayaw nilang makita na matagumpay ka. Iwasan mo sila habang maaga pa.

**Cancer** June 21 to July 22  
Talasan mo ang iyong mata dahil may darating na oportunidad pero maraming kompetisyon. Dahil wenas ka, baka mapasa-iyong.

**Leo** July 23 to August 22  
Hangga't maiwasan mo, huwag kang papasok sa negosyong masyadong malaki ang pangakong tutubuin ng puhunan mo. Kailangan ay gamitin mo ang iyong common sense na imposible ang inilalahad nila sa iyo.

**Virgo** August 23 to September 22  
Alam mong maraming nagkakasira- pamilya man o magkakaibigan-nang dahil sa pera. Kung may gusto kang salihan sa negosyo, ikaw na lang muna.

**Libra** September 23 to October 22  
Bantayan mo ang iyong harap, tagiliran at likod. May mga nakapaligid sa iyo na hindi mo dapat pagkatiwalaan.

**Scorpio** October 23 to November 21  
Mabilis kang maghanap ng pagkakamali kapag may nangyayaring taliwas sa inaasahan mo. Pero alam mo naman na walang kabutihang idudulot ang pananakit mo ng damdamin lalo na't kung kasama mo araw-araw ang apektado.

**Sagittarius** November 22 to December 21  
Matagal ka nang walang minamahal at wala na ring nagmamahal sa iyo nang tulad ng nakaraan mong relasyon. Oras na para mag-move on ka.

## What's Cooking?

Chicken with pasta is a foolproof combination. The tender and succulent chicken meat is the perfect partner for any pasta. And this grilled chicken pasta with balsamic vinegar is the best example of this combination.

**Ingredients:**  
2 tsp. chopped rosemary  
4 oz. colorful pasta  
2 skinless breast fillet chicken cut into halves  
Salt & pepper to taste  
2 tsp. Cajun seasoning  
¼ parmesan cheese  
¼ cup olive oil  
½ bar butter  
¼ cup balsamic vinegar

1. Bring water to a boil with salt. Add colorful pasta and cook for 8-10 minutes or until al dente, and then drain.
2. Meanwhile place breast fillet chicken with

Cajun seasoning, salt & pepper and chopped rosemary, sauté the chicken in butter and grill until meat is tender. Set aside.  
3. Add and stir fry pasta and chicken with balsamic vinegar.  
4. Serve hot and top with parmesan cheese.



By Chef Jay Dator

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre M/F Cockloft Wing Tat Commercial Building, #97 Bonham Strand, East Sheung Wan Hong Kong.  
For more recipes, you can call us at 28507724, 28507714, 28507408, or 28507438.



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Judge: What can you do to help uplift our nation from economic crisis?  
Bakla: (namutla) Akala ko ba Miss Gay ito? Quiz bee pala!  
Mrs: Honey, baka nasunog ang bahay natin, naiwan ko nakabukas ang PLANTSA!  
Mr: Pwede ding hindi!  
Mrs: Bakit?  
Mr: Eh, naiwan ko nakabukas ang GRIPO!  
Juan: Tay, sabi po nila pag front view kamukha ko si Rizal, pag side view kamukha ko si Bonifacio. Ano ang ibig sabihin?  
Tatay: Mukha kang pera!  
Barista: Sir, bakit bawat lagok nyo, sinisilip nyo ang litrato ni misis?

Juan: Check ko lang kung kaya ko pa! Pag maganda na sya, lasing na ko!

Juan: Dok, ako po yung pasyente nyo LAST YEAR!  
Doc: Oo naalala ko, may problema ba?  
Juan: Itatanong ko lang sana kung pwede na akong maligo?

Juan: Marmi nagsabi na makulit daw ako. Totoo ba? Na makulit ako? Ha? Totoo ba? Ano? Sagot? Totoo? Ano? Hoy? Ano? Makulit ba ako?

Juan: Nanay ako lang po ang line of 9 sa test namin!  
Nanay: Wow, yan ang anak ko, ilan ba nakuha klasmeyts mo?  
Juan: Lahat po 100!

Juan: Tuwing magdadala ako ng GF sa bahay, di nagugustuhan ni inay!  
Pedro: Magdala ka ng kamukha ng inay mo!  
Juan: Natty ko na, ayaw naman ni itay!

Tatay: Aba himala! 1 oras ka lang nagbabad sa telepono! Dati-rati 6 na oras! Sino ba yung kausap mo?  
Juan: Ewan ko po 'tay, WRONG NUMBER lang!

Juan: Mag-aaply po akong BOY.

Amo: Ok, ang job mo i-feed ang aso ng HAM sa umaga STEAK sa tanghali at SAUSAGE sa gabi.  
Juan: Magaaply po akong ASO!

Maria: Nay, pwede po ba ako sumama sa NIGHT SWIMMING ng mga kaklase ko?  
Nanay: Ok lang anak, basta wag gabi ha?  
Maria: Opo nay, promise!

GF: Kawawa naman yung ex- BF ko!  
BF: Bakit naman?  
GF: Balita ko since nagbreak kami 7 years ago ay palagi ng naglalasing  
BF: Wow haba ng celebration!

Juan: Pare nanaginip ako kagabi, kasama ko daw ang 85 contestants ng Miss Universe Pageant!  
Pedro: Wow, di jackpot ka?  
Juan: Oo pare, ako nanalo!

Juan: Nay bakit kaya tinatawag akong ANIME ng mga kalaro ko?  
Nanay: Kasi 3 buwan ka ng di nagpapalit ng damit!  
Tuwing lalabas ka yan ang suot mo!

Pedro: Pare, hwag mong kalimutan na may handaan sa bahay bukas! Birthday kasi ng inaanak mo na kambal!  
Juan: Wow, talaga? Sino sa kanilang dalawa?

## Crossword Puzzle

### PAHALANG

1. Lamat
6. Ingay ng manok
11. Aruga
12. Katulong
13. Akma
14. Totoo
15. Kaye \_\_\_\_\_
16. Pinausukan
17. \_\_\_i; sigarilyo
18. Inis
19. Lugar sa Quezon City
23. Guho
24. Dating Mayor ng Maynila
26. Inipon
29. Palayaw ni Catalina
30. Likom
31. Punta
32. Inangkin
33. Bigay sa amin
34. Batok
35. Loterya

### PABABA

1. Paalam
2. Lupa
3. Ragasa
4. Bilis
5. Bakla; Ingles
6. Bayan sa Sulu
7. Bandang Ulo
8. Palayaw ni Cristina
9. Paggapas ng dmo
10. Pwedeng gawin
16. Malaking piraso
18. Uri ng yantok
20. Baskula
21. Alila
22. Partner ni ninang
25. Maraming tao
26. Rolyo
27. Lumalabas sa sugat
28. Iwas
29. Nilay
31. Palayaw ni Sabina

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

### Answer to last puzzle

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

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**Branch Locations**

**Hong Kong**

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Tel # (+852)</b>
World Wide Shops, Hong Kong	Shop 272 2/F, WWH, 19 Des Voeux Rd, Central Shop 270 2/F, WWH, 19 Des Voeux Rd, Central Shop 118 1/F, WWW, 19 Des Voeux Rd, Central	2532-5850 or 5859 2532-5840 or 5846 2532-5860 or 5861

Central, Hong Kong	22/F Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Rd	2532-5804
North Point, Hong Kong	Shop No. 70A, G/F., Block 13, City Garden Shopping Arcade, 233 Electric Road	2532-5820

Hung Hom, Kowloon	Shop 76, G/F., Whampoa 108 Shopping Centre, 19-23 Man Tai Street	2532-5810
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Yuen Long, New Territories	Shop 16A, 2/F, Tung Yik Building 8 Yu King Square	2532-5880
Tsuen Wan, New Territories	Shop 261, 2/F, Lik Sang Plaza	2532-5870



**Macau**

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Tel # (+853)</b>
San Malo Square	Rua Dos Merca Dores Commercial No. 35-39A Oeste Do Mercado De. S. Domingos Nos. 2-8, Ou Chong Commercial Building Shop D, G/F, Macau	2835- 6277

 **2532 5800**