

HONG KONG NEWS

The No.1 Foreign Newspaper Vol.XVII No.369

April 15, 2017

China labor market eyed

SEVEN REASONS. Our writer lists down compelling reasons why you should book your flight to Egypt now.



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SEOUL-BOUND. Deputy Consul General "Kit" de Jesus is set to leave HK and start his stint in South Korea.



Page 20

SOAR HIGH. Regine Velasquez is joining her first ever full-length telefantasya.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS. Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong mark on Apr. 9 the Lenten season by holding their own take on the traditional stations of the cross to signify the travails and the suffering of the Filipino nation.

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

PHILIPPINE labor officials are looking into the possibility of opening the labor market and sending Filipino workers to China.

firm to Hong Kong News he has submitted recommendations to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III about the possibility of allowing Filipinos to seek employment in China.

"The welfare and protection mechanisms have to be there. You cannot just

willy-nilly go into the labor market without examining the labor market conditions, and the first requirement would be the certification from the Department of Foreign Affairs that says it is a compliant country," Dela Torre said.

This certification would state the coun-

try is a safe destination for OFWs, it has laws protecting migrant workers, and labor conditions are good.

Should there be an agreement, Dela Torre said this would mean high-skilled

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Pinoy fined \$600 for stolen chocolates

By Ally Constantino

A Filipino charged with handling stolen goods was fined by an Eastern Magistracy judge on Mar. 28.

It was apparently the sentence that Mark A. B. was hoping for as he repeatedly bowed to Deputy Magistrate Winston Leung Wing-chung and said "thank you", when the judge ordered that the defendant pay \$600 instead of serving time in jail.

Mark was charged with receiving two boxes of chocolates that were allegedly stolen from a Wellcome Supermarket in North Point on Dec. 14, 2016.

Two police officers saw Mark acting suspiciously in the vicinity near the supermarket at around 2:10 p.m.

The other defendant in the case was charged of stealing the goods and passing them on to Mark. The first defendant was fined \$1,000.

Judge Leung noted the first defendant was imposed a fine, and Mark had been in custody since Mar. 15.

"That is sufficient punishment for you," said Judge Leung.

Mark, who is a Hong Kong permanent resident and came here when he was six years old, was given seven days to pay

the fine.

"You live in Hong Kong, try to behave yourself," said Judge Leung after the prosecutor informed him that Mark had seven previous convictions, one of which was related to dishonesty.

In a previous hearing in another court at the Eastern Magistracy, Mark threatened to kill himself, when the judge said he should be sent to jail for failing to pay the fine within the prescribed period.

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

He was arrested on Mar. 15 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. Judge Chainrai denied the defendant's bail application. 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.

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. 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.

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CARD seeks rebrand, more resources

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

CARD MRI is looking to shore up its resources by seeking to tap the Hong Kong society to help them in their mission to train Filipinos working in the city to become “economically-empowered”.

In a consultation with stakeholders held on Mar. 25 at the Latham & Watkins office in Central, CARD MRI officers revealed that they will be drawing up a strategic plan for the NGO's activities, re-brand, and then launch the “Friends of CARD Hong Kong”.

CARD's rebranding, said CARD OFW Hong Kong founder Edna Aquino, will allow it to appeal to the larger Hong Kong society, including the government, for funding and support.

The group noted that it has yet to do any “outreach” to “ethical employers”, and such a program would qualify them for assistance from the Hong Kong government.

CARD, which began its operations in Hong Kong in 2010, said that it is “hoping to embark on a new stage” in its development.

“Our program calls for our formal registration with the HK Charities Commission in order to have a more stable funding base and allow greater participation among those in the community who share our vision,” the group said.



CARD MRI consultation



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'Be honest', PCG exec tells OFWs in 'passport loan'

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

"TELL the truth."

This was the advice given by Vice Consul Alex Vallespin to Filipinos who would be interviewed by police about the group allegedly taking Filipino helpers' passports as collateral for loans.

"Ang sinabi namin sa kanila, huwag na silang magsinungaling kasi kapag nagsinungaling sila, tatandaan pa nila ang pagsisinungaling nila at kapag specific ang sinabi nila at pinaikot-ikot na sila, at kung mahusay ang imbestigador, mayayari sila," Vallespin said in an interview.

"Sa mga may passport, sabihin nila kung sinangla o kung kumita sila, sabihin nila kung may role sila o wala," he added.

Vallespin refused to say whether those who pawned their passports could be liable under Philippine laws, saying that it would be up to the Passport Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs to determine that.

Following the arrests made by the Hong Kong Police, Vallespin noted a drop in the report of cases of missing or lost passports to the consulate.

"Tahimik ngayon. May nagrereport pa rin naman weekly ng nawawalang passport. Pero honestly, kung hindi dito sa breakthrough na nangyari, we have no

way of knowing," Vallespin said.

In the last week of March, 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.

At least 10 persons arrested, eight Filipinos and a Chinese couple, in connection with illegal lending activities have been released on police bail and they were told to report to the police station by mid-April. Along with the arrests, police seized, among others, 242 Philippine passports. Vallespin had said those who used their passports as collateral would only be able to recover them once the police wrapped up their probe on the matter.

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. 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.

Kata continues Singapore expansion

By Ally Constantino

TOP mobile phone and tablet manufacturer Kata continues to expand in Singapore.

Kata Store, which carries other brands including Apple, Lenovo, HTC, Samsung and Sony, opened its second shop in the city-state at 304 Orchard Road Floor 4-83 Lucky Plaza. It is eyeing to open more shops soon.

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Helper pawns boss' jewels for \$5,400

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

FOR stealing gifts of jewelry to her employer and pawning them for \$5,400, a Filipino domestic helper was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts.

Y.G. Bacani's duty lawyer told Principal Magistrate Bina Chainrai the defendant was unable to "make restitution" as she could not get in touch with her family members in the Philippines.

"Besides pleading guilty, there really

is no other mitigation. The theft here is what referred to as theft in breach of trust. You stole from your employer and the total pawned value of the goods was \$5,400.

"I'm told by the prosecution as the gifts was from the victim's mother-in-law, the victim was not aware of the exact value," said Judge Chainrai. The magistrate reduced Bacani's jail term to eight weeks owing to her guilty plea.

Bacani was charged with stealing two gold rings, one silver ring, and one gold

necklace with a jade pendant and were pawned in various pawn shops in Central, Western, and Wan Chai districts between February and March this year.

The jewels were kept by the employer, a policewoman, in an unlocked suitcase in her bedroom in her flat in Conduit Road in Central. On Mar. 22, the employer checked the suitcase and found three of its pockets emptied and the jewels missing. When confronted, Bacani, who started working for her employer in Aug. 2016, admitted taking the items.



Mga Katungkulan ng mga Dayuhang Kasambahay



Umiwas sa labis na pangungutang. Huwag bayaran ang iyong ahensiya sa pamamagitan ng pag-utang sa kahit na anong kumpanya na nagpapautang kahit na hilingin ito ng ahensiya.

Gawin lamang ang mga pamahay na tungkulin para sa pamamahay ng amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata. Huwag manilbihan para sa ibang tao bukod sa iyong amo.



Umiwas sa "job-hopping". Kadalasan hindi pinapayagan ang pagpalit ng amo habang wasto pa ang iyong kasalukuyang kontrata maliban sa pambihirang pangyayari. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung aabusuhin ang pagputol sa kontrata nang wala sa panahon.



Mayroon kang libreng tutuluyan sa pamamahay ng iyong amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata, at ditto ka lang puwedeng tumira. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung titira ka sa labas kahit na pinayagan o binayaran ito ng iyong amo.



Huwag tumanggap ng illegal na trabaho o pansamantalang trabaho kahit na pinayagan o pinakiusapan ka ng iyong amo o ahensiya na gawin iyon.

Maari kang isakdal at paalisin sa Hong Kong kapag napatunayan kang lumabag sa kundisyon ng pananatili.



Duty lawyer defends Filipina hotel worker in court:

'She's naïve, unsophisticated'

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

"NOT very sophisticated" and "naïve" were the words used to describe R. Tam, the Filipino hotel worker charged with three counts of "conspiracy to deal with property known or believed to represent proceeds of indictable offense" after receiving money to her bank account from her online boyfriend and depositing it to an HSBC account.

"It was her first time to make friends through the internet, a social networking and Steve Michael made an effort to gain her trust by calling her his wife and telling her they would soon be planning their life together," Tam's lawyer told a Kowloon Magistrates' Courts in trying to persuade the judge to acquit her client.

The lawyer added Tam gave Michael her Public Bank account number, and nothing happened in two weeks, making her forget about it.

"He did not notify her about depositing the money. When the money arrived, the defendant did not expressly authorized him to do so. The original purpose of giving her bank account number was different from how it was used," the lawyer said, noting the messages between the defendant and Michael prior to the money being deposited to the Filipino's account showed

this.

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.

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.

Magistrate Veronica Heung Shuk-han adjourned the case for verdict on May 5.

Helper fined \$800 for eating meatballs

M.N. Ladia, 40, initially faced two theft charges at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts, but the first one was dropped. She pleaded guilty to the second charge - alleging that she stole \$100-worth of meatballs from her employer.

During the hearing on Apr. 7, Ladia's duty lawyer told the court the defendant's employer took \$100 from the helper's salary. The money was paid in the presence of police officers in May 2016. The first charge alleged Ladia stole a pair of leather slippers and an Agnes b handbag. The prosecutor told Magistrate Jason Wan Siu-ming they would be unable to present any evidence in the case as Ladia's employer was unavailable to give evidence in court.

The duty lawyer said since May last year, the case caused great stress to the defendant.

"She has since sought refuge in a church in Yuen Long, and the Church has provided her with free food," the lawyer said, adding that owing to the case, it would be unlikely Ladia would find employment in Hong Kong again.

Judge Wan said the case was "difficult", noting that while the value of the stolen property was insignificant, the nature of the case, a breach of trust, was not "trivial".

"If it is just ordinary shop theft case, I may be persuaded to [grant total discharge]. On the other hand, the facts of the case are not as severe as other breach of trust cases. Considering the [defendant's] clear record, and she would unlikely to continue to work in Hong Kong, usually, breach of trust calls for a custodial sentence, but I would depart from the usual practice and order the defendant to pay \$800 in fine," Judge Wan said. The fine was taken from the \$1,000 bail money posted by the defendant.

Ally Constantino

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Four illegal workers sent to prison

By Ally Constantino

FOUR illegal workers comprising one Indonesian and three Vietnamese holding recognisance forms were jailed at Shatin Magistrates' Courts on March 31.

During a joint operation conducted by the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD), the Hong Kong Police Force and the Labour Department codenamed "Powerplayer" on Feb. 28, enforcement officers raided a car washing shop in Pat Heung, Yuen Long, and arrested a male Indonesian, aged 20. When intercepted, he was found washing a car. Upon identity check-

ing, he produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits him from taking employment and further investigation revealed that he was a non-refoulement claimant.

Furthermore, during operation "Twilight" conducted on Mar. 29, ImmD investigators raided a food stall in Ma On Shan. Three Vietnamese comprising one male and two female, aged from 25 to 45, were arrested. When intercepted, they were found working as odd job workers and a dish wash worker in the kitchen. Upon identity checking, the two females produced for inspection recognisance forms

issued by the ImmD, which prohibit them from taking employment. The male was unable to produce for inspection any proof of identity. Further investigation revealed that he was a holder of a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits him from taking employment. The three illegal workers were non-refoulement claimants. In addition, they were suspected of using and being in possession of suspected forged Hong Kong identity cards or a false instrument. An employer suspected of employing the illegal workers was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The four illegal workers were charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts on March 31 with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. After the trial, they were sentenced to 15 months'

imprisonment. Among them, three illegal workers were also charged with using forged Hong Kong identity cards or false instrument and they were each sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. All sentences are to run concurrently.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases.

The spokesman also warned that it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a

\$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment.

Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person.

The court will not accept failure to do so as a defense in proceedings.

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By Ally Constantino

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FDH charged for working in TST hotel

By Ally Constantino

A Filipino domestic worker has been charged with breach of condition of stay after she was allegedly working in an unlicensed guesthouse in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Marissa D.D. pleaded not guilty to the charge before the Kowloon City Courts. Her employer is also standing trial for the charge of operating a guesthouse without a license. A senior officer at the Licensing Authority on Apr. 5 gave evidence in court about finding Marissa in the guesthouse.

He said they set up an operation to book a room in the guesthouse for July 28-29, 2016. Two of Licensing Authority employees posed as guests and proceeded to the guesthouse in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Upon arriving there, they also saw a couple about to check in. The two employees also tried to extend their stay.

The Senior officer told the court they called the police when they found a Filipina in the guesthouse and they suspected her of committing an offense.

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Seven reasons to v

By Daryll Saclag

“Why are you going to Egypt?”

“Don’t go there! It’s not safe.”

“Why don’t you just visit some other country instead?”

These were just some of the reactions – skeptical at best, discouraging at worst – that I received when I told my family and friends that I would be travelling to Egypt. Those who know me well, however, knew that there was nothing they could do to prevent me from visiting the country and that my fascination with Egypt is greater than my fear.

This obsession, as a matter of fact, started at a very young age. My early days in Sunday school first introduced me to Egypt, with characters from the Bible such as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph visiting the ancient land. Movies like Prince of Egypt and The Mummy also fueled my desire to travel to this country someday. Now that I had the opportunity, nothing could stop me.

I am sure that you have also dreamt of exploring Egypt one way or another. So despite the political situation there, I encourage you to turn your dream into a reality. Here are seven reasons why you should book that flight to Egypt.

First is that whether you are a history buff, an adrenaline junkie, or a shopaholic, Egypt has got you covered. Want to walk back in time and immerse yourself in the rich history of one of the world’s earliest civilizations? The Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx are waiting for you, as they



Egypt used to be part of the ancient Greek empire, traces of which can still be found in modern-day Alexandria

have done for thousands of years. Want to make your trip a little more exciting? The Red Sea offers a world-class diving experience. Want to bring home exotic gifts? The country is filled with vibrant markets that sell textile, jewelry, brassware, spices, and so much more.

Second, you will have the pyramids all to yourself. Imagine going to all these tourist attractions without having to fall in line, or having your picture taken without any photobombing it. Hassle-free! Tourist

arrivals in Egypt has fallen in recent years due to the unpredictable political situation in the country. Despite this, the Egyptian government has increased police visibility to make visitors feel safer. All airport passengers also go through security checks twice.

Third, you will be treated like a celebrity in Egypt. As a result of the dwindling number of tourists in the country, it has become rare for locals to see and meet foreigners. When my friend and I were

visiting the Saladin Citadel, which is a medieval fortress in Cairo, we actually spent an hour taking selfies with the locals. It was crazy but fun! They are eager to know where you are from and are very much willing to offer tips on where to eat and what sights to see to make your stay more enjoyable.

Fourth, apart from the tourist attractions, Egyptian food is another area that is worth exploring. The dishes have been largely influenced by its neighboring countries



The Great Pyramids of Giza, which were b

and former colonial masters. Many of the food rely on vegetables and beans; hence, vegetarians as well those who keep a close watch on their weight will not have a hard time looking for a place to dine. Must-try foods include falafel, koshary, and molokheya. Meatlovers need not to worry, however, as Egypt also offers a wide range of dishes to cater to your heavy appetite. These include shawarma, kebab, kofta, and tajine.

Fifth, Egypt has a perfect climate even as the country is mainly a desert. While it is warm most of the year, Egypt is blessed to be located just beside the Mediter-

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Egypt's ancient writing system

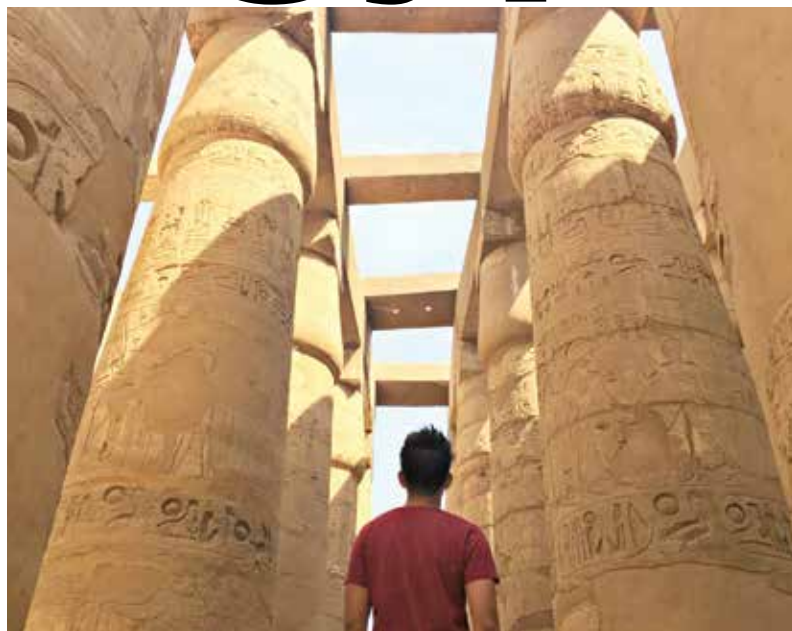


The Luxor Temple is decorated with lights

visit Egypt



Built almost 4,000 years ago



Towering pillars welcome visitors at Karnak Temple in Luxor



The Temple of Hatshepsut is an ancient tomb and shrine

anean and the Red Sea, which bring the temperature to a comfortable level. The best time to visit is between the months of October to April when the sun is out, rain is little, and the wind is cool. Make sure to wear a jacket when you go out at night during these months as temperature may drop as low as 10 degrees!

Sixth, everything is cheap – food, accommodation, and transportation. Backpackers will surely love this place. For less than \$2, you can already have a proper lunch, which can either be koshary, shawarma, salad, or falafel. Decent rooms can also be had at \$10 per night. There is

no need to book and most of these places have Internet connection. Domestic flights are affordable too. We booked a roundtrip flight from Cairo to Luxor and it just cost us around \$70, which is cheaper and better than taking a train especially when you are traveling on a budget and on a limited time.

Last but not the least, you will be among the first to see things no one else has seen. As I write this, news about the discovery of another Egyptian pyramid built around 3,700 years ago are circulating online. Last month, a massive statue of what may be Pharaoh Ramses II was also unearthed in a bustling neighborhood in Cairo. These wonders, if ever you see them, will boost your bragging rights, on top of the fact that you have actually been to Egypt.

Egypt is a great country and has a lot to offer to globetrotters. There are so many more reasons why you should make it your next travel destination, but when someone asks you in the future why you

are including Egypt in your bucketlist, you already know what to say.



Statues of ancient Egyptians



The Citadel of Qaitbey in Alexandria overlooks the Mediterranean Sea



Bust of an ancient Egyptian



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DCG Kit's learning experiences in HK

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

DEPUTY Consul General Christian "Kit" de Jesus' about two-year stint in Hong Kong may be considered relatively short, but it is one full of learning experiences.

De Jesus is set to assume as Consul General and First Secretary in the Philippine Embassy in Seoul, South Korea on Apr. 17, the same day his replacement Roderico Atienza would be arriving in Hong Kong.

De Jesus and Atienza would be trading places.

"Hong Kong has been my second posting. The first was an embassy [in Tokyo, Japan] and here is a consulate so I would say I was privileged to have the best of both worlds and I believe this is the right time to move to my next assignment and I will do my best to apply the things I learned here in Hong Kong," De Jesus said in an interview with Hong Kong News.



De Jesus

The Hong Kong post was described by De Jesus as heavy in consular work and assistance to nationals. In Seoul, he said he is looking forward to doing more diplomatic work "in the context of an embassy".

Philippine Ambassador to Korea Raul Hernandez was once assigned to Hong Kong sometime in the 1990s.

De Jesus' Hong Kong posting saw him being appointed as the chairman of the Special Board of Canvassers during the 2016 presidential elections.

"Everyone knows Hong Kong is the most vibrant, most active, has the most number of voter turnout, but what adds to the unique experience last year compared to the previous years, it was the first time the canvassing for the whole of China was held here in Hong Kong," he said.

If De Jesus, a lawyer by profession, found the Japanese preparation for catastrophes efficient and organized, here in Hong Kong, he found the healthcare services and legal processes impressive.

"The healthcare and their facilities and also the rule of law are world-class," he said.

There are an estimated 50,000 documented Filipinos living and working in South Korea, and many of them are working in factories.

Go home, Labatt tells LET passers

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THOSE who passed the licensure examinations for teachers held here in Hong Kong are assured of getting a job in the Philippines, but they would need to go home first, said Labor Attache Jaloilo dela Torre.

"There is also a green lane [for them], which is not the normal application process, and parang express lane for OFWs and when they get appointed to their preferred location ng school, bibigyan pa sila ng teaching kits," Dela Torre told Hong Kong News.

Labatt's remarks came following the oath-taking ceremony held at the Philippine Consulate on Mar. 26 for the 74 passers of the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (formerly Licensure Examination for Teachers).

Meanwhile, the Department of Labor and Employment-National Reintegration Center for OFWs, through its Facebook page, informed the "pre-qualified beneficiaries" of SPIMs they would be getting e-mails soon to choose their

preferred schools.

"Ito na po ang susunod na proseso sa minimithi nating Teacher 1 item mula sa DepEd. Sa dami po ng pre-qualified OFWs, kami po ay humihingi ng inyong pang-unawa. Hindi po kayo sabay-sabay na mabibigyan ng email kaya maghintay lang po kayo," DOLE-NR-CO said.

Gemma Lauraya, president of the National Organization for Professional Teachers, said most of their members in Hong Kong would return to the Philippines and be with their family. The lack of teaching job, however, hinders them from going home.

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

The reintegration program, called "Sa 'Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma'am/Sir," allows OFWs who passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers to apply and be employed by the education department as teachers.



NOPT members during the oath-taking

China labor market...

From page 1

and low-skilled Filipino workers could soon go to China and be employed there. Those who may find work are the engineers, tutors, nurses, and household service workers. Presently, there are Filipino engineers in China.

"There are labor opportunities in China and we should at least look at those before we make any decision to open the labor market formally," said Dela Torre.

He said the inputs were submitted to Bello some three months ago.

"There were inquiries from (employment) agencies [about the China labor market]. But it is not my call, it is the Sec-



Dela Torre

retary's call," he added.

Dela Torre, meanwhile, said there are still unconfirmed reports a delegation from the DOLE in Manila will be meeting with their counterparts in Beijing soon.

Meanwhile, Dela Torre reminded Filipinos here in Hong Kong to be wary of third-country deployment, adding the DOLE has yet to verify job offers for Brazil.

"Third-country deployment is illegal and prohibited under our laws. Hindi din verified ng POLO ang job orders doon. The fact na may isa o dalawang nakapunta sa kung saan does not mean safe na iyan. Hindi pa natin nainterview ang mga nakapunta doon kung ano ang pinagdaanan nila. This is dangerous," he said.

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6 Monthly **\$623**

Sugar Y7 Max



- 5.5 Inch
- 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
- 32GB 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



- 4.5 Inch
- 5MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$990**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$215**

Asus Zenfone Go ZB500KL



- 5.2 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$999**
Down **\$159**
6 Monthly **\$224**

Huawei Y6 Pro



- 5 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual SIM

Price **\$1,180**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$279**

Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro C9000 NEW



- 6 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 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 XA F3116



- 6 Inch
- 21.5MP Rear + 16MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.6GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Fingerprint

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

Sony Xperia XZS NEW



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

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 **\$3,198**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$764**

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 **\$4,498**
Down **\$899**
6 Monthly **\$975**

HTC Desire 10 Pro



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

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

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

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

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

Huawei Nova Prestige



- 5 Inch
- 12MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.0GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G

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 6.0.1 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 6.0.1 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 **\$1,498**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$342**


Nokia 6 Low Downpayment Pre-order Available



- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 64GB Storage
- 1.4 GHz Quad-core
- 4GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G

Price **\$2,088**
Down **\$299**
6 Monthly **\$473**


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

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 NEW



- 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

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

Samsung Galaxy C5 Pro C5010 NEW



- 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 NEW



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

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 **\$4,998**
Down **\$599**
6 Monthly **\$1,150**

Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 8.0 LTE



- 8 Inch
- 8 MP Rear + 2.1 MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.8 GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android

Price **\$3,588**
Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$897**

Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 9.7 LTE



- 9.7 Inch
- 8 MP Rear + 2.1 MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.9 GHz Octa Core
- 3GB RAM
- Android

Price **\$4,188**
Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$1,047**

Samsung Galaxy T285 Tab A7 LTE



- 7 Inch
- 5 MP Rear + 2 MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- 1.3 GHz Quad Core
- 1.5 GB RAM
- Android

Price **\$1,598**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$367**

Casio G-Shock 9052




Price **\$490**
Down **\$90**
6 Monthly **\$106**

Casio G-Shock 110



Price **\$840**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$208**

Casio G-Shock 100



Price **\$730**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$179**

Huawei T2 7 LTE



- 7 Inch
- 2MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.5GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G

Price **\$1,080**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$237**


Apple iPad Air 2 128GB



- 9.7 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 12MP Front
- 128GB Storage
- 1.5GHz Triple Core
- 2GB RAM
- iOS 10
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Price **\$4,788**
Down **\$699**
6 Monthly **\$921**

Lenovo Tab3 7 Essential LTE



- 7 Inch
- 2MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.3 GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android
- 4G

Price **\$1,499**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$342**

Casio G-Shock 100H



Price **\$490**
Down **\$90**
6 Monthly **\$106**

Casio G-Shock 7900



Price **\$840**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$208**

Casio Tough Solar Analog Digital 810



Price **\$580**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$129**

Acer ES1-131



Price **\$3,190**
Down **\$699**
6 Monthly **\$681**

Asus Aspire 10 E



Price **\$2,988**
Down **\$399**
6 Monthly **\$683**

Acer ES1-432



Price **\$3,699**
Down **\$599**
6 Monthly **\$825**

Casio Tough Solar Analog Digital 110




Price **\$590**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$131**

Seiko SUP302P1



Price **\$710**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$157**

Seiko SNZG09K1



Price **\$880**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$202**

Canon Power Shot G7X Mark ii



Price **\$4,580**
Down **\$399**
6 Monthly **\$1,079**

Canon Power Shot G9X



Price **\$3,380**
Down **\$299**
6 Monthly **\$796**

Canon Power Shot SX720 HS



Price **\$2,980**
Down **\$199**
6 Monthly **\$712**

Apple Watch Series 1



Price **\$2,288**
Down **\$299**
6 Monthly **\$466**

Apple Watch Series 2



Price **\$2,288**
Down **\$399**
6 Monthly **\$560**

Citiplus Plastic Digital Watch



Price **\$48**
Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$13**

Go Pro Hero 5 Black Action Cam




Price **\$3,200**
Down **\$399**
6 Monthly **\$734**

Tosing Q7 Karaoke Microphone



Price **\$290**
Down **\$59**
6 Monthly **\$68**

Casio FX-570MS



Price **\$210**
Down **\$79**
6 Monthly **\$40**

Naviforce 9024



Price **\$349**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$77**

Naviforce 9049




Price **\$349**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$77**

Naviforce 9074




Price **\$349**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$77**

X1T Wireless BT Earphone




Price **\$199**
Down **\$39**
6 Monthly **\$47**

JBL T280a In-ear Headphones




Price **\$239**
Down **\$19**
6 Monthly **\$61**

JBL Reflect Mini



Price **\$799**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$197**

Motorola Verve Loop



Price **\$599**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$134**

Motorola Verve Ones+




Price **\$1,999**
Down **\$0**
6 Monthly **\$500**

Motorola Verve Rider+



Price **\$599**
Down **\$99**
6 Monthly **\$267**

Super Bundle




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- 5.5 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 1.4GHz Octa Core
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop

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

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Philips Shine Protect Hair Dryer 903



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

Rasonic Mini Rice Cooker - Y5H



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

Panasonic Wrist Blood Pressure Meter 10



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

Samsung 28" 4005




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

Panasonic Hair Dryer 51



Price	\$210
Down	\$79
6 Monthly	\$40

Philips Hair Dryer 8112



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

Panasonic Electric Rice Cooker 185



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

Panasonic Rice Cooker 105



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

Samsung 32" 4003



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

Samsung 32" 5005



Price	\$3,290
Down	\$499
6 Monthly	\$740

Philips Essentialcare Hair Dryer 603



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

Panasonic Eyelash Curler 2300



Price	\$110
Down	\$39
6 Monthly	\$21

Panasonic Rice Cooker 185



Price	\$399
Down	\$79
6 Monthly	\$90

Philips Rice Cooker 3011



Price	\$289
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$65

Samsung 22" 5001



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

Samsung 24" 58




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

Panasonic Hair Curler A11



Price	\$348
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$83

Philips Easy Natural Curler 10



Price	\$348
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$83

Philips Rice Cooker 3017



Price	\$369
Down	\$79
6 Monthly	\$83

Panasonic Blender 1011




Price	\$288
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$65

LG 27" 58



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

LG 32" 570



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

Philips Essentialcare Ionic Straightener 403




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

Panasonic Ionity Hair Brush 10



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

Kenwood Blender Xtract Sport 060



Price	\$419
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$102

Kenwood Blender 470



Price	\$499
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$124

Mitsubishi Fan 12



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

Mitsubishi Fan 16



Price	\$459
Down	\$79
6 Monthly	\$106

Philips Electric Shaver 560



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

Philips Aquatouch Wet & Dry Electric Shaver 750



Price	\$648
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$163

Kenwood Blender 011



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

Kenwood Sandwich Maker 650



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

Panasonic Microwave 332



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

Panasonic Water Purifier 225




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

Panasonic Men Shaver 34



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

Philips Hairclipper 3410



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

Kenwood Toaster 020




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

Kenwood Weighing Scales 401



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

Sony Radio 26



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

Sony Radio 306



Price	\$259
Down	\$59
6 Monthly	\$60

Scores of passengers arrive early in NAIA

By Bing Jabadan

THOUSANDS of departing passengers deluged the four terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Apr. 7, apparently heeding advisories of airlines to arrive four to five hours before their departure time owing to lack of Immigration personnel manning the counters.

The passengers formed long lines at the Bureau of Immigration booths much earlier than their scheduled departure time to avoid being left behind by the aircraft.

Most of the passengers who came early are those coming from the nearby provinces, some of them were seen lying on the floor, taking a nap while others sat on the chair at the lobby. Since January this year, scores of airport's BI personnel have gone on leave, leaving many of the airport



NAIA Terminal 1

booths unmanned. Owing to the situation at the NAIA, Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific advised their passengers to come to the airport ahead of time.

PAL on Apr. 4 advised passengers taking PAL international flights to check in at the NAIA Terminal 2 at least four to five hours before their flight's estimated time of departure so they would not be left by the aircraft.

Cebu Pacific and Cebgo also reminded its passengers to come early since their counters would be opened three hours before departure for international flights. Passengers of other flights also came in droves apparently thinking the advisories apply to them as well.

Ed Monreal, Manila International Airport Authority general manager, said PAL's advisory was "recommendatory only."

"NAIA still maintains the three-hour arrival at the airport prior to departure, otherwise, if they arrive much earlier, there would be more congestion at the terminals," he said.

Since January, the BI saw a record number of their airport personnel taking official leaves of absence following cancellation of their overtime pay.

'Occupy islands in South China Sea'

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the military to "occupy" all the islands being claimed by the Philippines in the South China Sea to assert the country's sovereign rights over the territories in the disputed area.

"I have ordered the Armed Forces to occupy all the so many islands, I think 9 or 10. Build structures and plant the Philippine flag," he said.

The President stressed the need to "maintain jurisdiction" over the West Philippine Sea and to "fortify" the disputed Pag-asa Island by building bunkers and other structures there.

"This looks like a race to grab the islands, so we should get what is ours now and make a strong point there that it's ours," Duterte said.

The President likewise vowed to plant the Philippine flag on Pag-asa come Independence Day on June 12.

Duterte's pronouncement was met with concern by officials in Beijing, who cautioned Manila against eroding the "sound and steady growth of China-Philippines" relations.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Beijing is ready to defend its "territorial sovereignty and maritime interests."

China has been claiming 90 percent or almost the entire South China Sea, some parts of which are also being claimed by the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan and Brunei.

Pag-asa Island, which is also being claimed by China, is the second biggest naturally occurring island in the South China Sea.

Breakthrough in peace talks

By Maia Lopez

THE government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front have forged an interim joint ceasefire agreement, a breakthrough in the recently concluded fourth round of peace negotiations in The Netherlands.

The talks began on a tense note on Apr. 3 after President Duterte set several conditions for a bilateral ceasefire mechanism.

The President said the communist rebels must stop the collection of revolutionary taxes and other forms of extortion across the country as well as release all of its political prisoners.

Duterte said any bilateral ceasefire pact must also have clear parameters and in no way shall the government recognize any territorial claims of the New People's Army.

The CPP-NDF pressed for the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms before a joint ceasefire agreement is forged.

Government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III said he was "relieved" that the

interim joint agreement on the cessation of hostilities was finally ironed out.

Both parties hailed the development as a "significant step forward."

"This is the farthest point that we have already achieved in our negotiations with the CPP-NDF," presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said.

The government and the NDF agreed to direct their ceasefire committees to "meet even in between formal talks, to discuss, formulate, and finalize the guidelines and ground rules" for the implementation of the interim agreement.

The fifth round of formal peace talks is scheduled on May 27 to June 2 also in The Netherlands. The guidelines on the interim ceasefire pact will include rules governing the presence of armed units and elements of both parties in local communities and the creation of buffer zones; an agreement on what are considered as prohibited, hostile, and provocative acts; and ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanisms.

Malacañang expressed hope that the interim ceasefire pact will lessen clashes between NPA rebels and government troops.

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DILG chief axed

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has fired Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno over allegations of corruption in a controversial fire truck deal with Austrian firm Rosenbauer.

"I could never be misinformed," Duterte said in defense of his decision to let go of Sueno, who has denied the allegation and described himself as a "sacrificial lamb."

"I said at the first whiff of corruption, even if it is not true, we will part ways. We can easily find replacements. We will not run out of talented, bright and honest public servants who have integrity," the President added.

Interior Undersecretary for Public Safety Jesus Hinlo said Sueno was involved in the purchase of the fire trucks without public bidding. Hinlo said there was a case pending in the Supreme Court involving the firetrucks but Sueno still proceeded with second loan.

The dismissed official, however, said it was then Interior Secretary Senen

Sarmiento who signed the second delivery of 76 fire trucks in April 2016.

Duterte said he raised a legal opinion against Rosenbauer with Sueno, who said he was not aware of it.

Duterte has since appointed Interior undersecretary Catalino Cuy as the department's officer-in-charge.

In early March, the President also let go of his campaign spokesman, Peter Laviña, as head of the National Irrigation Administration also over corruption allegations.

Laviña, however, claimed he chose to resign to spare the President "embarrassing stories."

Meanwhile, the President also fired Undersecretary Maia Valdez of the Office of the Cabinet Secretary.

Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol said Valdez was fired for allegedly seeking to overturn the denial of rice importation being pushed by National Food Authority administrator Jason Aquino.

"I said, 'How can I face the farmers?' Why would we allow importation to compete with local products?" Duterte said.

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Labor 6080 8323
OWWA 6345 9324
SSS 2823 8552
Pag-Ibig 2823 8561
Consulate Trunkline 2823 8500
Office Fax: 2866 9885
Email: hongkongpc@philcongen-hk.com
Website: http://philcongen-hk.com/
Facebook: Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong

Hong Kong GOVERNMENT

Independent Commission Against Corruption 2526 6366
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
Postal Hotline 2921 2222

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
The Bethune House 2721 3119
Enrich Hong Kong 2386 5811
Helpers for Domestic Helpers 2523 4020
United Filipinos in Hong Kong 3156 2447

AIRPORT AND AIRLINES

Airport Inquiry 2181 8888
Cathay Pacific Airways 2747 5000
Cebu Pacific Air 2722 0609
Philippine Airlines 2301 9300

GALLERY

Sylvia Brion receiving her Kata phone during Carowa's Search for Ms. Fashion Icon 2017 & HMUA 2017 held on Mar. 26.



Filipino group Acapellago performs in TST on Apr. 2

Barkadahan sa SmarTone now in Macau



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



Total of 19 Barkadahan subscribers shared in the 1 Million Pesos with Consul General Lilybeth Deapera, Tracy Law & Cindy Leung awarding the prize to winners.



Philippine Consul General for Macau Lilybeth Deapera with her welcoming remarks.



SMARTONE, who has been in the Telecommunications industry for over a decade & 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 & lots of free food & drinks. The grand prize of P195,000 went to lucky Macau Barkadahan subscriber Evangeline Sarturio. Filipinos now in Macau, same as Hong Kong, can enjoy tailor made services from the most popular Overseas Filipino Workers community, Barkadahan sa SmarTone.

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14 Filipino sailors missing in Atlantic

By Maia Lopez

TWO Filipino sailors have been rescued from a distressed South Korean freighter that sunk in the Atlantic Ocean.

According to the Uruguayan Navy, the vessel Stella Daisy, a very large ore carrier, had 24 crew on board, comprising of 16 Filipinos and eight Koreans.

Uruguayan Navy spokesman Gaston Jaunsolo said four merchant ships deployed for search and rescue in the area recovered three rafts, and rescued the two Filipino crew members.

In Manila, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said they are monitoring the rescue efforts to locate the other missing sailors, including the re-

maining 14 Filipino crew.

Jose said the DFA is still verifying with the ship owner and manning agent on the total number of Filipino sailors in the vessel and how many are still missing.

Jaunsolo said the first ships to reach the scene had detected a "strong smell of fuel." The rescuers also spotted debris, "an indication that the damaged ship had

sunk," the Navy official said.

The ship, which is flagged in the Marshall Islands, had departed from a port in Brazil. Its intended destination was not immediately clear.

Jaunsolo warned that the chances of finding alive any of the 22 crew members are getting slimmer even as the search continues in the South Atlantic.



Pinoy jailed for phone theft in Malaysia

By Maia Lopez

AN unemployed Filipino man was sentenced to six years in prison for stealing cellphones from two women at a shopping complex in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

Mohd Shi Ben was found guilty of stealing a phone from Sabtariah Tei Teck Sen and Syarfa Md Hassan at the Centre Point Sabah complex on March 11.

Prosecuting officer Insp. James Paran told the court that a security guard saw Ben take Sabtariah's phone from her trouser pocket while she was on her way home.

The guard chased and caught the fleeing suspect.

The Filipino suspect, who holds an IMM13 visa holder, will be referred to the Immigration Department after serving his sentence.

An IMM13 visa is awarded to Filipino refugees to allow them to move, stay, study, and work in Sabah. Meanwhile, a

Filipina caregiver in Palos Verdes Estates in Los Angeles County has been arrested for allegedly stealing from her patients.

The Palos Verdes Estates Police urged victims of Maria Licuanan to come forward and help them in their investigation.

Licuanan is currently being held without bail for stealing credit cards from elderly victims while in their service.

The 49-year-old suspect, a resident of Torrance, California, reportedly took a credit card from an elderly victim who filed a police report against her.

Police recovered stolen property and credit cards belonging to different victims when they served a search warrant for Licuanan's residence and vehicles on March 21.

The LA County District Attorney's office filed four felony counts and two misdemeanor counts against Licuanan, whose aliases are Rosario Licuanan, Marosario Mendoza Licuanan, Maria Licuanan, and Rose Licuanan.

Clemency sought for Dalquez

By Maia Lopez

A member of United Kingdom's House of Lords (Upper Parliament) has called on the government of the United Arab Emirates to grant Filipina domestic helper Jennifer Dalquez clemency. Dalquez is facing execution after she was found guilty of killing her employer in 2015.

"It is clear from the evidence that her action was not pre-meditated, but a desperate response to an unprovoked sexual attack," wrote Lord of Wimbledon Inderjit Singh in a letter addressed to UAE Ambassador Sulaiman Hamid Almazroui.

"I am writing to you to use your good offices to remove the threat of the death penalty and for the authorities to show due clemency," added Singh.

The Justice For Domestic Workers also appealed for Dalquez to be spared the death penalty. The group described the 30-year-old Dalquez as a "victim of gross inhumane abuse and injustice faced by migrants in the Gulf states."

"Her plea in mitigation of self defense as she resisted and fought off her

assailant when he attempted to rape her at knife point has been disregarded," J4DW coordinator Marissa Begonia said.

The Court of Appeals in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates has earlier deferred its decision Dalquez's case to April 12.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said the court postponed its decision after one of the victim's children skipped the trial.



The victim's two children must refuse to swear in court and accept blood money instead for Dalquez to evade execution.

The Filipina has maintained that she killed her employer in self-defense as the latter was allegedly trying to rape her and was armed with a knife.


Jose said Manila has submitted new evidence to convince the court to reverse the death sentence on Dalquez.

"We have submitted the testimony of a crime scene expert witness and hopefully this will help reverse the decision of the Court of First Instance. But of course what is really crucial here is the decision of the two children of the victim," he added.

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

1. Kumusta sa lahat ng banyagang kasambahay!
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-employo 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 nilinis na bintana ay nalagyan ng rehas na nakakandado o nakapirme sa paraang hindi mabubuksan ang rehas;
6. Pangalawa, walang bahagi ng katawan ng mga dayuhang kasambahay ang ilalabas lampas ng pasamano ng bintana maliban sa mga braso.
7. Mariing hinihikayat ang mga taga-employo 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.
8. Mga Trabahong Pambahay, Kaligtasan ang Mauuna! Kilala tayong lahat!



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Siapo's story

DOMESTIC worker Luzviminda Siapo had to go down on her knees and kiss her employer's feet in Kuwait before she could back to the Philippines to see her 19-year-old son. She came home to see him inside a coffin. Raymart Siapo, who had difficulty walking because both his feet were deformed, was shot twice in the head after he was accused by his neighbour of being a drug peddler.

Fourteen armed men, who arrived in motorbikes, came to their home in Navotas to do him in. They also broke his arms before killing him. Luzviminda blamed a barangay official for putting her son's name in the police blotter and identifying him as a suspected drug dealer.

We urged the Duterte administration to quickly solve this murder before it becomes another blotch in the government's war against drugs. The administration has been denying that extrajudicial killings happened in its anti-drug campaign but killings like that of Siapo point to a different reality. The government relaunched its war against drugs in early March and Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said the data showed that it is now a "less bloody war" than what happened last year. We hope he's right. Siapo is not the first overseas Filipino worker to lose a son to a suspected extra-judicial killing but we also hope she will be the last.



Haplos at Bigwas

Jun
Concepcion

Dishonesty = Permanent Job Loss in Hong Kong

For apparent dishonesty, Mildred Ladia, 40, squandered permanently her chance to earn as a domestic helper in Hong Kong a net monthly salary of P28,000 -- significantly higher than what she used to earn in that job in Malaysia, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

She could have worked in this city for another 20 years until 60, just like what many Pinay helpers here do. And why not? A net monthly salary of P28,000+ as a domestic helper is extremely difficult to find in the Philippines and elsewhere in the world.

A Hong Kong court found Ladia guilty of eating a HK\$100 (P650) worth of meatballs of her employer and the conviction means she is permanently banned from working in this city. But more than trivial meatballs, Ladia was also accused of stealing 2 pairs of her ex-employer's leather slippers and a branded bag. Since her former employer was in hospital, prosecutors decided to drop the theft case.

In a separate case, a 30-something Pinay helper, also in Hong Kong, was sacked by a Chinese family of three after it was determined that their helper was responsible

for the loss of HK\$3,000 meant as payment for car parking fee.

Was Hong Kong law too harsh on Ladia? After all, it was just over meatballs! Apparently not.

At first glance, the meatballs issue looks trivial. But taken with alleged loss of leather slippers and a branded bag, the issue boils down to this: To whom will you entrust your house and all its valuables if you are away at work? Someone who is honest and trustworthy? Or someone without these qualities, which means potential loss of your valuables?

This issue goes beyond race, gender or religion. Even an overseas Pinoy with a maid who looks after young children will fear loss of valuables back home.

Honesty. Trustworthiness. Dedication to work.

Whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere in the world, these qualities are expected from everyone -- not just Pinoys -- in the workplace.

OFWs should never lose sight of these qualities at all times -- if they wish to keep their jobs.

As We See it



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

Posible ang Kapayapaan

"Peace is possible in our lifetime!"

Ito ang pamagat ng isang pahayag na nabasa ko mula sa mga lider-simbahan kaugnay ng Fourth Round ng Peace Talks ng GRP at NDFP. Nang mabasa ko ang pahayag nila, gumaan ang pakiramdam ko.

May kakaibang kahulugan ang marinig o mabasa mo na posible pala na maabot ang tunay at pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa panahon natin. Napakatagal na ng kalagayan ng "unpeace" at digmaan sa loob ng bansa.

Kung iyong rebolusyonaryong paglaban lamang ng CPP-NPA-NDF, aba'y halos limampung taon na nga! Mas matanda pa sa akin.

Paano ba naman, hangga't hindi nga nasasagot ang ugat ng problema sa bansa -- ang pagka-atrasado ng ating ekonomiya, ang pang-araw-araw na kahirapan, ang inhustisya, korapsyon, human rights violations atbp, hindi titigil ang paglaban. Hindi pwedeng asahang magbaba

ng armas ang mga nakikipaglaban para lamang maabot ang kapayapaan na hindi naman nagreresolba ang mga suliranin ng bayan. Liban na lang kung ang gusto ay kapayapaan ng hukay.

May posibilidad nga ang kapayapaan sa panahon natin lalo na kung mauunawaan ang naganap sa fourth round ng peace negotiations na nagtapos nitong ika-6 ng Abril. Sa totoo lang, sa kasaysayan ng mga peace talks ng nagdaang mga gobyerno at ng rebolusyonaryong grupo, ito na siguro ang pinakamalayo ang narating. Aba'y napagkasunduan na isa sa magiging batayan ng mangyayaring kasunduan sa Socio-Economic Reforms ay ang FREE land distribution! Gayundin, mag-uusap na para sa ground rules ng isang Joint Interim Ceasefire. Magpapalaya rin ng mga prisoners of war at mga political prisoners ang magkabilang-panig.

Sa kasaysayan ng peace talks sa bansa, wala pang umabot sa ganitong antas.

Aba'y walang binatbat ang adminisrasyon ni PNoy sa ngayon sa pagsulong ng peace talks kahit pa apektado pa rin ng pasumpong-sumpong na pagtigil dahil sa dami ng mga nais mag-sabotahe sa negosasyon.

Itong mga mananabotahe na ito ang dapat nating pagsabihan at tutulan. Pina-ka-palalo na sa mga ito ay si Defense Secretary Lorenzana at AFP Chief Año na walang kiyeme na banggain ang mga pahayag ng mismong commander in chief nila si Pres. Duterte para lamang tiyakin na mag-collapse ang peace talks at maitulak nila ang kanilang all-out war. Sa nangyayari, sila ang ayaw sa kapayapaan. Habang ang peace panel ng GRP at NDFP ay nagsisikap na pa-abantehin ang usapan, tuloy ang kanilang pananabotahe at militarisasyon.

Congrats sa makabilang peace panel! Suportahan natin ang pag-abante ng peace talks at huwag tayong padala sa pananabotahe ng mga nais na matigil ito.

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,
Pagbati sa inyong lahat!

Masugid akong mambabasa ng inyong pahayagan sa tagal ko na dito sa Hong Kong di ko pinapalampas ang bawat issue nyo. Sinisigurado ko na nababasa ko ang lahat ng nilalaman nito. Sa loob ng aking 30 taong pag-trabaho dito walang palya ang aking pagbabasa ng inyong pahayagan kahit pa may facebook na at iba pang online source.

Nagpasya akong sumulat, upang ibahagi ang aking karanasan kamakailan lang sa ating POLO office. Nung ika-3 ng Abril ay nagtungo ako sa kanilang tanggapan

upang iproseso ang aking bagong kontrata. Nagpasya akong magrenew pa ng huling kontrata kahit na ako ay 60 taong-gulang na upang mas madagdagan pa ang aking ipon at makatanggap na long-service pay. Mga alas-10 na ng umaga ako nakarating sa POLO office subalit marami na ang nakapila. Okay lang naman sa akin kung magtagal ako dahil di naman ako nagmamadali at itinalaga ko na talaga ang araw na iyon para sa pagpila.

Laking tuwa ko nang tanungin ng isang POLO staff kung sino ang senior citizen at agad-agad akong nagtaas ng kamay. Laking pasasalamat ko at may ganito palang pribilehiyo ang mga senior citizen na katulad ko. Kaa-

gad-agad akong natapos at nakauwi ng maaga at na-kapagtrabaho pa sa bahay ng aking amo.

Sa pamamagitan ng liham na ito, nais kong iparating ang aking taos-pusong pasasalamat sa mga kawani ng POLO, ganun din ang mga nasa Konsulado sa kanilang pagbibigay atensyon sa mga senior citizen. Malaking pribilehiyo ang maibsan ang haba ng paghihintay lalo na sa amin na may mga edad na. Mabuhay po kayo at muli maraming salamat Hong Kong News sa paglathala ng aking saloobin.

Sumasainyo,
Gloria L.

Gusto nang bumigay

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

MASAYAHIN, matulungin, maasahan, masasandalan at lahat na yatang "ma" ay matatagpuan na sa pagkatao ni Maria, may asawa, at anak tubong Legazpi.

Mahigit 20 taon nang nagtatrabaho bilang kasambahay si Maria kaya naman talagang sanay at maalam na siya pagdating sa alituntunin na nakapaloob sa ipinapatupad ng kawani sa manggagawa dito sa Hong Kong. Minsan kapag may mga nakikilala siyang baguhan ay kusang loob na ni Maria ipamahagi at ituro kung ano ang dapat iwasan at tandaan para magtagal sila sa kanilang amo at para makaiwas sa

kapahamakan.

Kapag alam ni Maria na kulang o halos walang pagkain ang kasambahay sa pinagsisilbihang amo ay binibigyan rin niya kaya naman kinakagiliwan siya ng mga nakakakilala sa kanya. Pero sa kabila pala ng kabibohan ni Maria ay mahina ang kanyang loob kapag ang mahal niya sa buhay na ang magkasakit. Ang dating masigla at masayahin ay napalitan ng tahimik at pag-iwas sa mga tao. Nakakapanibago ang kilos at gawi ni Maria na kung bumati man ay parang pilit ang ngiti.

Hindi na nakatiis ang isa sa halos kap-anabayan na ni Maria sa tagal at masasabing kabisado na ang ugali, ay dinaan niya

sa biro na sinabing mukhang may ka LQ si Maria.

Para hindi na mapunta pa sa kung anong pag-iisip at para tigilan na siya sa pang-aalaska ay sinabi na ni Maria na may sakit ang kanyang ina.

Tumahimik ang mga nakapalibot kay Maria at sinabihan na magdasal lang at gagaling din ang ina niya. Para kay Maria kakayanin niya ano mang hirap na suungin niya sa trabaho at handa siyang magtiis para sa mga mahal niya sa buhay pero hindi ang pag-aalala sa hirap na dinaranas ng kaniyang pinakamamahal na ina. Nag-iisa ang ina, hindi mabibili at mapapalitan.

Muntik maiwan ng eroplano

KAILANGANG umuwi ni Gloria, 28, dalaga, tubong Pangasinan, dahil mapapaso na ang isang taong visa at para pagbalik ay magkaroon na ng saysay ang ikalawang taon.

Ang kasabikan niyang umuwi ay napalitan ng inis ng halos lahat ng sulok ng bahay ay pinapalitan at kahit kapapalit lang ng bed sheets ay pinapalitan at lahat ng damit na marumi ay pinalabahan at pinaplantsa ng amo.

Sampung minuto lang naman daw ang biyahe papuntang paliparan mula sa bahay sa Tung Chung kaya pinaalis ng amo si Gloria dalawa at kalahating oras bago ang schedule ng paglipad.

Halos lakad-takbo na ang ginawa ni Gloria papunta sa boarding gate na pumapasok na ang mga pasahero pagdating niya dahil natagalan siya sa haba ng pila sa check in counter.

Pagkaupo ni Gloria sa loob ng eroplano ay napaluha siya na hindi niya masabi kung inis sa amo o tuwa dahil dalawang oras na lang ay makakapiling na ang kanyang pamilya.

Imelda Mae Bustinera

Sinubukan at Pinayagan!

By Vicks Reyes Munar

ATUBILING magpaalam si Carlota, 42, sa kanyang amo. Magdadalawang taon pa lang siyang nagtatrabaho sa kanila pero naka-apat na beses na siyang nakauwi ng Pilipinas upang magbakasyon.

Ang dalawang beses niyang pag-uwi ay sa kadahilanang pampamilya. Ilang buwan pa lang siya nang mangyari ang di-inaasahang mga pangyayari sa kanilang pamilya. Naunawaan naman siya ng kanyang mga amo at binigyan siya ng ilang araw na upang maayos ang gusot pampamilyang dapat ayusin. Ang dalawa pang pagkakataon ay kusa siyang pinauwi ng mga amo. Sa mga panahong nangingibang bansa sila nang medyo matagal sinabihan siya na pwede siyang umuwi at sagot nila ang plane ticket at may pabaon pang pera. Ang huling uwi ni Carlota ay nuong Di-

syembre lamang.

Hindi alam ni Carlota ang gagawin dahil ang kanyang panganay ay magtatapos na sa kolehiyo. Nuon pa man ay laging di na siya nakakadalo sa pagtatapos nito kaya gusto nya talagang masaksihan ang pagtatapos ng kanyang anak sa kolehiyo. Sa tuwing mag-uusap sila ng kanyang anak sinasabi nito na nauunawaan daw niya kung hindi makakauwi ang kanyang ina.

Alam ni Carlota na kahit ganun ang sinasabi ng kanyang anak may bahid ng lungkot sa puso nito. Nagpasya siyang subukan na magpaalam Humanap siya ng magandang tiyempo. Laking pasasalamat niya sa sagot ng kanyang mga amo. Pinayagan siya at sagot pa nila ang kanyang tiket at binigyan pa ng regalong pera ang kaniyang anak. Sorpresa ang kanyang pag-uwi, sobrang saya siya dahil masaksihan niya ang pagtatapos nito.

Natatanging Kaarawan!

By Vicks Reyes Munar

SI Liza, 55, tubong Pangasinan ay 20 taon nang nagtatrabaho sa kanyang kasalukuyang amo. Sa loob paninilbihan sa pamilyang Intsik, ni minsan ay di sya binati ng kanyang mga amo sa araw ng kanyang kaarawan kaya ganun din ang kanyang ginagawa sa kanila. Abala ang mag-anak sa kani-kanilang karera kaya mistulang ordinaryong araw lang na lumilipas ang mga mahahalagang araw sa kanilang buhay.

Kahit papaano may lungkot na nadarama sa kanyang puso dahil pakiramdam niya ay walang pagpapahalaga sa kanya ang pamilyang kanyang pinagsisilbihan Laking gulat niya nang sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ay binati siya ng dalagang anak ng amo na naging kaibigan nya sa Facebook mga ilang buwan pa lang ang nakaraan. Naibsan ang lungkot sa kanyang puso at sa simpleng pagbati na yun ay nakaramdam siya ng kasiyahan.

Di pa nagtapos ang sorpresa para kay Liza sa araw na iyon, tinawag siya ng

among babae at sa pag-aakala niyang may iutos lang ito dagli siyang tumalima. Laking gulat niya nang abutan siya ng laisee o pulang sobre na may lamang pera sabay sabing "Happy Birthday Liza and thanks for all the things that you have done to our family". Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon sa loob ng kanyang 20-taong paninilbihan kakaibang saya ang kanyang nadama dahil kahit papaano pala ay binibigyang halaga din nila ang kanyang ginagawa para sa kanilang pamiya. Kinagabihan may binili pang cake ang kanyang alagang binata na ngayon ay may maayos nang trabaho. Sama-sama nilang ipinagdiwang ang kanyang kaarawan.



May birthday cake pa si Liza

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Mythical creatures to soar again

AFTER much anticipation, GMA Network proudly unveils the star-studded and powerhouse cast of *Mulawin vs. Ravena*.

Headlining the biggest telefantasya of GMA this 2017 is none other than Kapuso Drama King Dennis Trillo who returns as Gabriel, Alwina's childhood friend who is in love with her and becomes the King of Halconia. And multi-talented Kapuso actress Carla Abellana will be portraying the role of Aviona, the wife of Rodrigo and one of the most loved and recognized Mulawin in Avila. Kapuso Premier Actress Lovi Poe is Magindara, a mermaid guarding Lake Venado. She is the one and only



REGINE

daughter of Sandawa and known to be the goddess of the sea.

And joining her first-ever full length telefantasya, Asia's Songbird, Regine Velasquez-Alcasid as Sandawa, the immortal goddess of nature.

Playing very special roles are: Heart



DENNIS



HEART

Evangelista-Escudero - Breathing life to the iconic character of Alwina, sugo ng mga Mulawin. It can be recalled that Alwina gave birth to a child destined to once again be the saviour of their race and the human world. And versatile Kapuso actor Tom Rodriguez as Rodrigo, Aviona's husband and Anya's father.

Seasoned actor Ariel Rivera joins the cast as Panabon, a member of the Council of Elders in Avila and the representative of

the Tabon (Mulawin half-bloods).

Featuring in this primetime masterpiece are the hottest young Kapuso love teams: Bea Binene is Anya, the half-blood daughter of Aviona banished from Avila, Derrick Monasterio is tapped to play Almiro, the son of Alwina and Aguiluz, Bianca Umali is Lawiswis, the love of Pagaspas' life who, after 12 years, has blossomed into a beautiful young Avian and Miguel Tanfelix once again spawns life to Pagaspas, a former owl who transitioned into a young Mulawin. Catch *Mulawin vs. Ravena* soon on GMA Pinoy TV, GMA's flagship international channel.

Pia apektado sa tsismis na may anak na si Marlon?

By Cristy Kasilag

TILA nabahiran ng lungkot ang mga mata ni 2015 Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach dahil sa mga tsismis na kumalakat.

Ang bali-balita ay ang sikat niyang racecar driver na boyfriend si Marlon Alexander Stockinger ay nagkaroon ng kambal na anak na babae nung ito ay mga 18-taong gulang pa lamang at tila hindi ito alam ni Queen P.

Nitong mga nakaraang buwan ay makikita ang kasiyahan sa mukha ng matalino at magandang 27-anyos na half Filipina at half German na beauty queen. Hindi lamang dahil nagawa niyang matapos ang kanyang reign bilang 2015 Miss Universe nung Enero pero dahil in love siya.

Masaya siya sa piling ng 25-anyos na half Filipino at half Swiss na si Marlon. Madalas silang magkasama at namamasyal sa loob at labas ng bansa.

Ano pa nga ba ang mahihiling ni Queen P sa buhay niya? Nakamit na niya ang kanyang pangarap na maging Miss Universe, na tatlong beses niyang sinubukang kunin, at buhay na buhay pa ang kanyang love life. Isang fairytale na karapat-dapat sa isang reyna na sana ang takbo ng buhay ni Pia ngayon.

Ngunit may pagsubok na dumating sa kanyang buhay nang napabalita na si Marlon ang "biological father" ng kambal na anak na babae ng 36-taong gulang na modelo at negosyanteng si Kit Barraquias.

Ayon kay Kit naging magkasintahan sila dati ni Marlon ng isang taon.

Iza, Ai-Ai waging best actress

DALAWANG aktres ang ginawaran ng Best Actress na award ng dalawang magkaibang international film festivals.

Ang una ay ang Filipina beauty na si Maria Izadora "Iza" Usher Calzado na kinilala na Best Actress ng Osaka Asian Film Festival para sa pagganap niya sa psychological thriller na "Bliss". Pero kahit na kinilala sa isang film festival sa Japan ang husay ng pag arte ni Iza sa pelikula na "Bliss", ang nasabing pelikula ay binigyan naman ng "X" rating ng Movie and Television Review and Classification Board dahil daw sa nudity at violence.

Ang pelikula ay sa ilalim ng direksyon ni Jerrold Tarog na siya ding director ng hit independent historical film na "General Luna".

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ng producers ng "Bliss" na i-apela nila ang naging desisyon ng MTRCB at umaasa na bibigyan sila ng mas magandang rating. Ngunit nagprotesta sina Direk Jerrold at 34-taong gulang na si Iza kung bakit binigyan ng "X" rating ang kanilang pelikula samantalang mayroong foreign films tulad ng "Fifty Shades of Grey" na ipinalabas na mayroong sexual theme.

Inamin nila na mayroong nude scenes at karamihan ang "Bliss", pero hindi daw intensyon ng mga gumawa ng pelikula para iangat ang sexuality ngunit upang makapanggulo ng isipan. Hindi kinalauanan ay binaba ng MTRCB ang rating ng pelikula mula sa "X" at ginawa na itong R-18.

Sa pelikula, ginanap ni Iza ang isang actress na naging producer na na aksidente at naging paralisdado. May mga mangyayari na nakakatakot habang siya ay nagpapagaling.

Samantala, ang comedy queen naman si Ai-Ai delas Alas ay nanalo naman na Best Female Actor sa 7th Queens World Film Festival sa New York para sa independent film na ang pamagat ay "Area".

Tinalo ng 52-taong-gulang na komedyante ang tatlo pang nominees para sa Best Female Actor Narrative Feature category. Kabilang sa mga natalo niya ay si Amy Redford ng pelikula na "Hate Crime", Karin Hanczewsk para sa pelikula na "Lotte", at si Dorothea Hagena sa pelikula na "Mann Im Spagat-Pace, Cowboy, Pace".

Cristy Kasilag

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Maxine kilig pa din sa proposal

By Cristy Kasilag

MGA dalawang buwan na mula nang mag-propose ang model-turned-musician si Robby Mananquil, ngunit sobra pa din ang saya ng aktres na si Maxine Sofia Maria Arroyo Magalona.

Nuong Valentine's Day nag-propose si

Robby sa 30-anyos niyang girlfriend na si Maxine sa Tokyo Dome sa Japan.

Dalawang taon na silang magkasintahan bago naisipan ni Robby na alukin si Maxine ng kasal.

Nakwento ni Maxine na hindi niya inasahan na mag-pro-propose ang kanyang boyfriend.

Ang akala niya ay isa lang ito sa mga byahe nila dahil mahilig silang dalawa pumunta sa mga iba't-ibang lugar at ang kumuha ng litrato.

Kasama pa nila sa kanilang byahe ang mga magulang ni Robby.

Ang akala ni Maxine ay kumuha lamang sila ng mga litrato para ipakita ang

kanilang "OOTD" o Outfit Of The Day.

Sinurpresa ni Robby ang girlfriend nung habang kumuha ng litrato ay bigla na lang itong lumuhod sa kanyang harapan at sinabihan si Maxine na "I love you so much will you ride this roller coaster of life with me?"

Naiyak si Maxine at binigay ang sagot

na "yes".

Kaagad nilang ibinalita ang kanilang engagement sa social media accounts nila.

Inamin ni Robby na kahit nung unang taon pa lamang nilang mag-noby ay gusto na niyang pakasalan si Maxine kaso hindi pa magkakilala ang kanilang mga magulang.

Housewives Fight Back in D' Originals

HOW does a woman protect her home from the break-in of another woman?

Beginning April 18, the wives will get even with their philandering husbands as GMA Network, via GMA Pinoy TV, launches the sexy dramedy series D' Originals. The Kapuso Network's latest offering is the hilarious story of three wives and their tussles with the three women who disrupt their quiet, domestic lives.

Top billed by 2016 Cannes Best Actress, Ms. Jaclyn Jose, D' Originals also features 2016 Gawad Urian Best Actress LJ Reyes and Bagong Pantasya ng Bayan Kim Domingo. Together with Katrina Halili, Jestoni Alarcon, Mark Herras, Meg Imperial, Archie Alemania, and Lovely Abella, the stellar cast brings to life a sexy comedy drama about three wives, three mistresses, and the three husbands in between them.

Jaclyn plays the domestic diva whose prowess in the kitchen is matched only by her rival, Katrina. Jestoni, meanwhile, plays the role of Jaclyn's used-to-be loyal husband who strays when faced with the excitement of an affair at mid-life.

LJ is an entrepreneur who is forced to be the family's breadwinner when husband Mark chooses to sit it out at home while waiting for his dream job. When his wife becomes too busy for his amorous advances, he finds more than enough comfort in the company of his sister-in-law, Lovely.

Kim plays a sexy Zumba instructor who has become a veteran of husband Archie's numerous affairs. However, the latest woman, Meg, is proving to be more destructive than usual. To top it off, the other woman reveals a secret that shocks the life out of the legal wife. Joining them are Mikoy Morales, Army Ross, Elyson De Dios, and Chlauri Malayao.



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Horoscope

Capricorn December 22 to January 19
Sana ay panatilihin mo ang katahimikan sa iyong pamilya. Huwag kang magpapakitang giliw sa isa dahil mitsa iyan ng selos at inggit.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18
Mas malalim ang pag-iisip mo kung ihahambing sa ibang tao na kasabay mong nagkaisip. Normal lang na magkimkim sila ng selos kung nakikita nilang mas maluwag ang iyong kabuhatan kaysa kanila.

Pisces February 19 to March 20
Nag-iiba ang ugali ng ibang tao kapag pera na ang iyong pinag-uusapan. Hindi katakataka iyan. Nasa iyo na ang desisyon kung ipagpapatuloy mo pa ang pakikipagkaibigan sa mga nadiskubre mong mukhang pera.

Aries March 21 to April 19
May hangganan din ang lahat lalo na kung napapahiya ka na sa ibang tao dahil sa pambabara niya sa iyo. Kausapin mo siya ng hindi lumala.

Taurus April 20 to May 20
Kapag Masaya ka masaya rin ang mga kasama mo. Nakakahawa ang kaligayahan at maginhawa pa ang pakiramdam mo.

Gemini May 21 to June 20
Huwag makipagtalbugan sa isang kaibigan na insecure sa iyo. Hayaan mo na siya at huwag intindihin at darating din ang panahon na mapagtatanto niya na mali ang kanyang mga ginagawa.

Cancer June 21 to July 22
Iwasan mo ang makipagtalo sa isang dati mong kasamahan sa trabaho o negosyo dahil hindi mo siya kayang ma-control. Baka siran ka.

Leo July 23 to August 22
Hindi lahat ng malapit sa iyo ay maisasama mo sa iyong paniniwala. Mahirap na usapan kapag tungkol sa relihiyon o politika, walang mananalao sa inyong dalawa dahil pareho kayong matigas ang ulo.

Virgo August 23 to September 22
Kung pwede mong asikasuhin sa isang taon ang mga bagay-bagay tungkol sa isang kontrata, gawin mo. Huwag ninyong palitan ang alin man sa kontrata ngayon.

Libra September 23 to October 22
Bakit ka maghahanap ng bato na ipupukpok mo sa iyong ulo? Kung gawa na ang plano nila hayaan mo sila.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21
Kung walang ibubuga, iwasan ang pakitang-tao. Mainam na magpakatotoo ka at sinupin na lang ang pera.

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?



For the Lenten season many of us would want to stay away from meat and opt to cook and eat fish. This pan-seared salmon fillet then is the best dish for this season.

- Ingredients:**
2 skin-on salmon fillets, about 6oz. each
Kosher salt
Ground pepper to taste
4 bar butter
2 tsp. white wine
¼ cup white onions, sliced

1. Press salmon fillets between paper towels to dry surfaces thoroughly. Season kosher salt and pepper.
2. In a pan place butter and pan-sear salmon fillet for 2-3 minutes.
3. Add in remaining ingredients-onions, white wine and Worcestershire sauce.
4. Serve hot and top with rosemary strands.

For more recipes enroll at **Culinary Arts Centre**

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For more recipes, you can call us at 28507724, 28507714, 28507408, or 28507438.



By Chef Jay Dator



Ale: Andyan ba nanay mo?
Juan: Bakit po?
Ale: Tungkol sa utang....
Juan: Umalis po, kahapon pa!
Ale: na babayaran ko!
Juan: Pero bumalik na kanina!

Lasing 1: Pare, ang bilog ng buwan!
Lasing 2: Di yan buwan, araw yan! Tanungin natin sa ale. Ms, araw ba yan araw o buwan?
Girl: Di po ako tagarito!

Ama: Hoy Juan! Huwag kang babakla-bakla ha!
Anak: Di po itay, punta nga ako sa basketball court ngayon.
Ama: Yan, astig!
Anak: Mama, nakita mo pompoms ko?

Sa party, nilapitan ng isang gwapong lalaki ang isang babaeng nakaupo sa isang tabi...

Juan: Sasayaw ka ba? (tuwang tuwa ang babae at tumayo)
Maria: OO, sasayaw ako!
Juan: Hay salamat! Paupo ako ah?

Mrs: Hello, please send a MAINTENANCE personnel, ang mister ko tatalon sa bintana!
Bilis!
Admin: Mam bakit po maintenance?
Mrs: Eh ayaw MABUKSAN ang bintana!

Juan: Bakit ang pandak mo?
Pedro: Kasi bata pa lang ako, ulila nako
Juan: Anong koneksyon nun?
Pedro: Hello? Wala nga nagpalaki sa akin!

Pedro: Anong nangyari sa tenga mo?
Juan: Namamalanta ko, nag-ring yung cellphone, yung plantsa nadampot ko!
Pedro: Bakit 2 tenga?
Juan: Tumawag ulit!

Ama: Inday, di ba utos ko say o ipatong mo yung COMFORTER sa kama? Bakit ganito?
Inday: Ginawa ko po sir, isinama ko pa nga ang FRENTER at ISKANER!

Sa mental...
Doc: Nasa isip mo ba ang pamilya mo?
Pedro: Oo naman!

Doc: (natuwa) Bakit? Nasaan ba ang pamilya mo?
Pedro: Nasa isip ko nga! Ay bobo!

Juan: Promdi ako pero di ako tanga! Bakit ganito ang kwarto, maliit na nga, ala pang kama at bintana?
Roomboy: Sir, nasa elevator pa lang tayo!

Killer: Pangalan mo Mrs?
Mrs: Inday po!
Killer: Kapangalan mo inay ko, di na kita papatayin! Ikaw Mr.?
Mr: Juan po, but my friends call me Inday!

Pedro: Ang lolo ko napatay nya 100 hapon nung World War II
Juan: Ang lolo ko, napatay nya 500 hapon!
Pedro: Yung lolo ko 2 lang, napatay nya mga lolo nyo!!

Juan: Sa wakas, nagising din alarm clock ko!
Pedro: Bakit sira ba yun dati?
Juan: Hindi! Binato sa akin ng misis ko!! Gising agad ako eh!

Maria: Lagot ginabi ako! Ano sasabihin ko ke itay?
Juan: Unahan mo? Bakit ngayon lang ako umuwi ha? San ako galing? Sobra na ko! Pasok sa kuwarto!

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- 1 Tiis
- 6 Halamang ginagamit sa pagkain
- 11 Matibay na punung-kahoy
- 12 Walang magulang
- 13 Talisain
- 14 Imburnal
- 15 Hindi pangkaraniwang karunungan
- 17 Asawa ni Charlene Gonzales
- 18 Lugar na walang kabahayan
- 19 Apelyidong Intsik
- 20 Yapos
- 23 Palayaw ni Baldomero
- 26 Dinugo
- 30 Gapas
- 31 Ilagan ang kapitolyo

- 32 Letter; Tagalog
- 34 Pagputol sa sanga ng kahoy
- 35 Propeller
- 36 Lugar sa Makati
- 37 Fidel _____; dating pangulo
- 38 Ibang anyo ng panaw

PABABA

- 1 Alam
- 2 Ipinid
- 3 Pagnugya ng baboy
- 4 Anak ng ibon
- 5 Aksidente
- 6 Niyog
- 7 Pakpak
- 8 Bahagyang lagnat
- 9 Iluto sa tubig
- 10 Pagkain nang walang ulam
- 14 Pwersa
- 21 Unahan
- 22 Tip
- 23 Lugar sa Quezon
- 24 Sabi nila
- 25 Sikreto
- 27 Delikado
- 28 Memorya
- 29 Umit
- 31 Ligpit
- 33 Man's bestfriend; Tagalog

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16			17		
18								19		
				20		21	22			
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30					31					
32			33			34				
35						36				
37						38				

Answer to last puzzle

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

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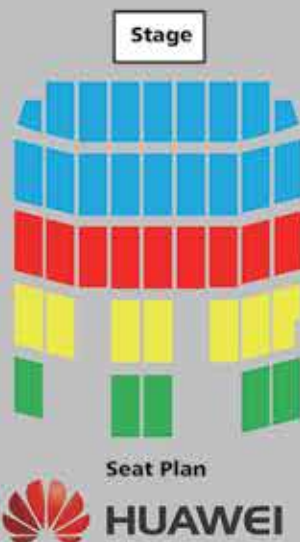
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