HONG KONG NEWS

The No.1 Foreign Newspaper Vol.XVII No.374 July 1, 2017

Excluded from Labour Department's proposal:

FDWs slam work hours scheme

COLOURS everywhere. Ethnic minorities perform during the "Celebrate Colours" program as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (story on page 24).

By Cheryl M. **Arcibal**

MIGRANT domestic workers' groups slammed the Labour Department's proposal that excluded them from "contract" working hours, saying the step affirmed Hong Kong's "total disregard" of their slave-like conditions.

The LD, however, defended the exclusion of MDWs from its proposal, citing the "nature of work" of the live-in domestic workers and its "socio-economic ramifications".

Leaders of Asian Migrants' Coordinating Body and the Progressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers in Hong Kong expressed their disappointment and anger over the proposal.

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GRIEVING. Family and employers of a domestic worker who perished in an accident turn emotional as they pay tribute to him.

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OPENING. David Chen, founder and CEO of global brand Kata, leads the opening ceremony of Kata's third store in Singapore.

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BUZZING. 'Mulawin vs. Ravena' is one of two Filipino shows topping social media.

FDH steals jewels to pay for kin's meds

By Cheryl M. **Arcibal**

A Filipino domestic helper was sentenced to 15 months in prison for stealing $162,000-worth of jewels and cash from her female employer in their home in Shatin.

After E.A. Perdido's guilty plea, however, Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-shing reduced the sentence by one third to 10 months.

The defendant, according to her duty lawyer, incurred a $40,000-debt from a financing company after her grandfather was diagnosed with cancer in 2016.

"This is a very serious breach of trust case," said Judge To.

The 39-year-old Perdido, who has a husband who is a farmer in the Philippines, was seen crying in the dock while the magistrate was giving the sentence.

The prosecution alleged that between August 2013 and May 31, 2017, the defendant stole $300 from a lai see red packet, and jewels namely seven pieces of bracelets, one pair of earrings, seven pieces of necklaces, one ring, two pieces of wrist chains, and pendants.

The total value of these items was $162,000.

The 41-year-old employer of the Filipina had put these items inside a locked cabinet in her bedroom, and the key of the cabinet was in a box placed on a desk.

At 9 a.m. on May 31, the employer found that six red packets containing $300 and pieces of jewelry were missing from the cabinet.

Asked by the employer, Perdido then admitted that she stole the case and the jewelry. The defendant also produced four pawnshop tickets and told her employer that she pawned the jewels.

The employer then called the police and at 10:55 a.m., the defendant was arrested. Upon search, 12 other pawnshop tickets were found.

Upon checking in all pawnshops in Hong Kong, it was learned that some of the jewels were pawned between October last year and April this year.

Shatin Law Courts Building

The employer paid to recover some jewels, whose total value were $128,000, but $34,000-worth of other items were not recovered.

Mitigating, the duty lawyer said the defendant has two sons, aged 18 and 11, and one daughter in the Philippines.

Monthly, she contributed $2,000 to the family, and after the defendant's grandfather was diagnosed with cancer, "the expenses increased".

"Her salary was not enough for medical expenses. She owed a debt of $40,000 to a a finance company, and she still had to contribute $1,000 to $1,100 to her family," the lawyer said.

He added that about two-thirds of the stolen items were recovered by the defendant's employer.

In giving the sentence Judge To, however, said he also considered the total value of the stolen items, and said he was adopting a 15-month starting prison term for the defendant, but reduced it to 10 months.

New mother pleads guilty to drugs case

By Ally **Constantino**

A Filipino woman who recently gave birth has pleaded guilty to a drug charge.

A.D. Bugayong on June 16 admitted to possessing 5.6 grams of shabu when she was searched by police officer on May 4, 2017.

Kowloon City Courts Magistrate Veronica Heung Shuk-han called for a background report and a drug addiction treatment center report before sentencing the defendant.

"I see that she's carrying a baby," Judge Heung said in court after seeing defendant with the tiny baby in the dock when the latter's case was called for mention.

The duty lawyer said the defendant gave birth on May 8 while in detention.

The prosecutor, meanwhile, said the defendant had a clear record.

Judge Heung adjourned the case for sentencing on June 30.

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2 Pinoys fined over stunning devices

By Ally **Constantino**

TWO Filipino men were caught with stun guns in separate incidents at the Hong Kong International Airport.

Sources from the Philippine Consulate General told Hong Kong News, the first arrested person was R. Hernandez, 45. He was arrested on June 5 at the HKIA and was found to be in possession of a stun gun. The other person, a pastor, was arrested on June 18. Priscillo G. was also found with a stunning device.

PCG officials said the two Filipinos were fined by Hong Kong courts and were then deported to the Philippines.

Philippine authorities have repeatedly warned overseas Filipino workers against carrying stun guns, bullets, knives, and other objects or devices that can be viewed as 'threatening' when visiting or passing through Hong Kong.

Stun guns and other devices, such as tear gas, bullets, extendible batons, flick knives, and knuckle dusters, are considered as "arms" under the Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance of Hong Kong.

"Their unlicensed possession is, upon conviction, punishable by a fine of HK$100,000 and/or a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment," the PCG report said.

"The Hong Kong authorities are particularly strict with the enforcement of said Ordinance. All hand-carried and checked luggage of passengers are subjected to security screening in the terminals," the report added.

In February 2016, a news report said Hong Kong Police vowed strict enforcement of the law prohibiting unlicensed weapons, even those for personal protection, in the city.

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Pinay cleared of breach of condition

By Ally **Constantino**

A Filipino domestic worker was tried and acquitted of breach of condition of stay at the Shatin Courts on May 23.

Norma B. N. was charged with the offense after an inspector from the Labour Department observed her washing a plate and helping out in the kitchen of her employer's Italian restaurant in Central in February.

Deputy Magistrate Tsz-kan Lam said the prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the defendant was doing odd jobs at the La Piazetta.

The prosecution charged that Norma was employed at the restaurant after she was seen to have washed some plates, and then was also seen holding a frying pan and put its contents on a plate.

At 12:21 p.m., the Labour inspector called his colleagues to the restaurant and two minutes after, his colleagues came to the restaurant.

At 12:25 p.m., officers from the Immigration Department arrived and checked the documents of the people at the scene, and the defendant was arrested.

In her evidence, Norma said she was at the restaurant because her employer wanted to eat a full-course meal.

She said she would be preparing the salad, steak, and dessert at the restaurant because she was informed their flat ran out of gas in the morning.

Norma also testified she asked the restaurant's chef to prepare the food for her male employer, but the latter was busy so she waited.

While waiting, and seeing that the kitchen was busy as it was lunch time, she decided to wash some plates and hand the chef the plate.

She also said she took some plastic containers to put the food and the special sauces her employer would be preparing for the restaurant.

Has POEA restored EA's license?

By Cheryl M. **Arcibal**

HAS the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency reinstated the cancelled license of a recruitment agency?

This question cropped up after it was revealed that Findstaff Replacement Services Inc. could be searched again on the database of the POEA whose status indicates it has a "valid license".

Its license is valid from Oct. 3, 2016 to Oct. 2, 2020.

In 2015, the POEA included Findstaff among 55 employment agencies whose licenses were cancelled owing to "unethical recruitment practices" and "violations of Philippine recruitment laws and regulations".

A June 28 screencap of POEA's database shows Findstaff's status.

3 Filipinos seek to stay in HK

THREE Filipino women have been separately charged with breach of condition of stay at the Shatin Magistrates Courts.

These defendants have either sought a non-refoulement claim with the Immigration Department or planning to, defense counsels told Sha tin Courts Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-Shing.

Judge To adjourned the cases of Gregoria A., Marilyn B., and Jeane G., on Sept. 21; Jul. 19; and Jul. 21, respectively.

The prosecutor said the date of the adjournment of Gregoria's case would be sufficient time for the Immigration Department to decide on her appeal.

As for Marilyn's case, the prosecutor said he was advised that the Legal Aid Department sought more information from the defendant to support her bid to have them represent her in her non-refoulement claim.

The prosecution said Marilyn's initial claim was rejected in April, and she filed an appeal on June 7.

Judge To said he expected that by July 19, the defendant would have substantiated her claim with the Legal Aid Department.

As for Jeane, the prosecution said the defendant also ought the help of the Legal Aid Department for her claim.

Ally Constantino

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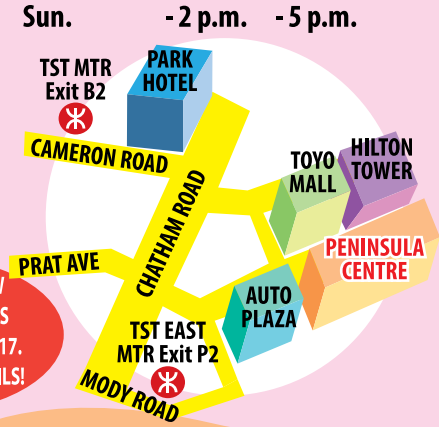

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Bill vs erring EAs filed in LegCo

By Cheryl M. **Arcibal**

THE Labour Department has formally filed with the Legislative Council a bill that will provide a basis for stiff fines and jail terms against erring employment agencies.

The bill seeks to amend Part XII of the Employment Ordinance (EO) (Cap 57) to raise the maximum penalty for the offenses of overcharging job-seekers and unlicensed operation of EAs.

Hong Kong labor rules allow agencies to collect fees equivalent to 10 percent of the worker's first monthly wage. The current minimum wage for foreign domestic helpers is $4,310. Violation of the rule could incur a maximum fine of $50,000.

Under the new bill, those charging job-seekers excessive fees could face a maximum fine of $350,000 and imprisonment of three years.

The bill also seeks to expand the scope of application of overcharging offense, and provide for new grounds for the Commissioner of Labour to consider refusing to issue or renew or revoking a license to operate an EA. Likewise, the bill will provide a legal basis for the Code of Practice for EAs.

In January, the LD promulgated the CoP, which highlights the salient legislative requirements and sets out minimum standards for employment agencies. These standards include maintaining transparency in business operations, drawing up service agreements with job-seekers and with employers, providing payment receipts,

MDWs punch a photo representing illegal fees (file photo).

promoting job-seekers' and employers' awareness of their rights and obligations (including provision of sample wage receipt to facilitate FDHs and their employers for record-keeping or perusal as when necessary) and avoiding involvement in financial affairs of job-seekers.

Hong Kong lawmakers vowed support for the legislation of stiffer fines on employment agencies that overcharge job-seekers.

A statement from the Hong Kong Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Union hailed the filing of the bill, saying it was the result of "years of effort of the union".

"The long fight by domestic workers finally achieved their goal of amending the law. However, the result will not only be enjoyed by migrant domestic workers. The Employment Agency regulation is equally applicable to employment agencies for local workers.

"In the CoP, the provision asking employment agencies to protect workers from 'false self-employment' is written for local workers. In other words, the campaign achievement of migrant domestic workers is enjoyed by all, regardless of nationality," FADWU said.

Shiella Grace Estrada, FADWU secretary and also Progressive Labor Union chair, said the group will continue to monitor the progress of legislators' discussion of the bill, but expect it to be legislated either late this year or early next year.

"We have a submission, stating that the entire CoP should be legislated and not just several of its clauses or provisions. From now until December, our group will lobby for the bill's approval," said Estrada.

Meanwhile, Eman Villanueva, spokesman of the Asian Migrants' Coordinating Body, said they will also monitor the legislative process to ensure that the proposed higher fines and jail terms would be approved.

Kutis ng Pinay nagenlightened at nagkaroon ng mahubong na katawan

KUTIS ang parating problema ni Percy Romero. Inggit daw siya sa iba na tila may kutis artista. Curious tuloy si Percy kung ano ang dapat niyang gawin sa kanyang mukha kaya panay ang eksperimento. Katulad ng ibang Pinay, kayumanggi ang kutis ni Percy. Kaya nais na pumuti ang kutis. Gumamit siya ng whitening cream para lang mawala ang pangingitim ng balat na hindi nasiyahan sa resulta.

Hanggang malaman mula sa kaibigan ang tungkol sa upgraded Dream Love 1000 5 in 1 body essence lotion, na gawa sa England na may 3D hologram model image silver seal. Mabibili daw ito mula sa Fiesta Mart sa halagang HK$98 lamang. Nagtungo siya para bumili nito at pagkauwi ay ginamit ang lotion sa paraang pagpahid ng paikot sa kanyang mukha at paitaas buong katawan ng dalawang beses sa isang araw pagkatapos maligo ng maligamgam na tubig.

Nagulat siya sa araw-araw na pagbabago sa kutis at katawan. Sa loob lang ng dalawang buwang tuloy-tuloy na paggamit ay naalis lahat ang pekas at dark spots sa kanyang mukha. Lumambot, kuminis, pumuti at naging younger-looking ang kanyang balat. Nabawasan ng 20 lbs. ang timbang, ang dating 32 inches na baywang ay naging 29 inches. Pati sa balakang ay nabawasan ng 1 inches at 2 inches naman sa mga braso. Hindi masidlan ang tuwa ni Percy sa malaking pagbabago na nangyari sa kanya dulot ng lotion. Kaya naman inirekomenda rin ito ni Percy sa kanyang mga kaibigan para maranasan din nila ang kahanga-hangang epekto ng lotion sa kanya. (Article provided by: LT)

Before After

Percy Romero

Failure to pay for grocery items lands 2 Pinoys in court

By Ally **Constantino**

FOR failing to pay for an item that they took from a supermarket, two Filipino domestic helpers were separately charged with theft cases at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts.

Emely S. A. was charged with the case after she allegedly took a Dove shower gel from a Park 'N Shop store in Aberdeen on May 16, 2017.

The shower gel's price tag was $46.70, but Emely had $633.60 with her at the time of her arrest.

The prosecution and the defense agreed that a bind over would be the appropriate way to deal with the offense.

Eastern Courts' Deputy Magistrate Arthur Lam Hei-wei ordered Emely to be bound over by $2,000 for a period of 12 months. He also ordered her to pay cost of $500, which would be taken from her bail money of the same amount.

Menawhile, Juvilyn M. R. was also charged with theft for taking a hair gel also from Park 'N Shop in Aberdeen on June 1.

No plea was taken when the defendant appeared in court on June 20.

But Eastern Courts Principal Magistrate Bina Chainrai ordered Juvilyn to pay additional $300 as her bail money. Juvilyn had initially paid $200 as bail.

The defendant's employer was set to pay the additional money that was required of the domestic worker.

The case was adjourned to July 4 for mention.

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PH, Indonesian execs eye suitable room scheme for FDHs

Dela Torre

By Cheryl M. **Arcibal**

PHILIPPINE and Indonesian authorities are firming up a scheme that would address problems of foreign domestic workers about "suitable accommodations" following a study of an NGO here that found many helpers were made to sleep in toilets, store rooms, kitchens, and balconies.

In an interview, Labor Attache Jalilo dela Torre said he had an initial meeting with Indonesian Deputy Consulate General Rafail Walangitan two weeks ago about the initiative, but refused to reveal more details.

Walangitan, however, has gone back to Jakarta after wrapping up his tour of duty here in Hong Kong.

"We are refining it, and we have to meet with the stakeholders first," he said, adding the initiative could be implemented in a month and a half.

The initiative, Dela Torre said, would address the issue of suitable accommodation even before a foreign domestic worker is hired.

A recent study by concern group Mission for Migrant Domestic Workers found that 42 percent of foreign domestic workers did not have their own room in their employers' home.

In a survey of 3,000 domestic workers from the Philippines and Indonesia, the Mission also found 70 percent of those who had no room were made to share a bedroom with children, elderly people or other domestic workers.

One in five of them were made to sleep in the living room.

Others were in worse conditions, reporting that they were made to sleep in a store room, kitchen, basement, cupboard, dressing room, balcony and even roof.

Meanwhile, Dela Torre also urged Filipino domestic helpers to file their complaints against abusive agencies and employers as it's the only way to enforce their rights.

"We need their complaints to address the issues," he said.

Dela Torre said they implement immediate blacklisting of employers once a domestic worker has filed a complaint against them.

"Kahit nasa social media lang basta serious ang cases," he said, citing the blacklisting of Gekko Lan Suet-ying, the employer of a Filipino domestic worker who was fined $800 for eating $100 worth of meatballs of her employer.

He said employers usually find out they have been blacklisted when they could no longer hire a new domestic helper.

"We summon them when they appeal their watchlisting, otherwise if the employer does not come here, the watchlisting stays," he said.

In July 2016, Dela Torre revealed that the POLO had included nearly 5,000 Hong Kong employers in its watchlist after Filipino domestic helpers filed complaints against them.

Court OKs bail for Pinay who hid for four years

By Ally **Constantino**

A Filipino woman who absconded for four years before facing two charges of breach of condition of stay at the Shatin courts was allowed bail.

In a hearing on June 21, Shatin Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-Shing, however, required Grace A. to post $3,000 bail to allow her to be released from custody.

"I would require her to deposit a huge amount, an amount that she would not abandon...as she had absconded for so long," Judge To said.

Grace's duty lawyer initially told the court the defendant would be able to raise $1,000 for bail, but eventually said she would be able to post the required amount of $3,000.

Besides the higher amount of bail, the defendant was also instructed to report to the Yuen Long Police station and inform the Immigration Department of any change in her residence 24 hours before such any change takes place.

Grace's case was adjourned to Jul. 19 for mention.

Kasintahan hindi makapagpigil

Nasasambit palagi ni Joan Ardion na gusto lang niya ng simpleng buhay, okay na daw siya kahit walang kasintahan ngunit nang dumating ang kaibigan niya na galing Hong Kong ay nabago ang kaniyang pananaw sa buhay. Ang pasalubong daw nito na upgraded Dream Love 1000 seksuwal perfume ang nakatulong na maging makulay ang buhay ni Joan. Ito daw ay matagal nang gamit ng kaibigan at napatunayan na epektibo dahil nagkaroon ito ng mabait na nobyong residente sa Hong Kong at kalaunan ay naging asawa.

Nagustuhan niya ang halimuyak ng nasabing pabango at naging madalas niya itong gamit bago pumasok sa trabaho bilang cashier. Noon daw hindi pa siya gumagamit nito ay magaabot lang ng bayad ang mga customer pero nang magsimula siyang magwisik nitong Dream Love 1000 perfume ay napansin niyang panay ang compliment ng mga customer na napakabango daw ng gamit niyang perfume at pati boss niya ay nabighani sa halimuyak nito.

Simula noon ay nagkaroon daw siya ng isang customer na nanligaw sa kaniya ng todo at palaging inaantay ang kaniyang paguwi. Napansin niyang mabait ito at simula noon ay lagi na silang namamasyal at kumakain bago umuwi hanggang sa sila ay naging magnobyo. Damang-dama daw niya ang sobrang pagkabighani nito sa kaniya na daw makapagpigil.

(Article provided by: LT)

Joan Ardion

Maid denies stealing $500 from employer

By Ally **Constantino**

A Filipino domestic helper will stand trial for allegedly stealing $500 from her former employer.

Analiza E.E. on June 16 pleaded not guilty before the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts to the charge of theft.

The prosecution said they would be presenting two witnesses, including the defendant's former employer, during trial.

The case was adjourned for trial on July 19.

Kowloon City Courts

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7 witnesses in hitting ward case trial

By Ally **Constantino**

SEVEN witnesses will be presented in court by the prosecution in the trial of a Filipino domestic helper who was charged with hurting the daughter of her employer.

A prosecutor told an Eastern Magistrates' Court on June 20 that seven witnesses will be presented in court for the one-day trial of Emerolyne M. L., who was charged with ill-treatment or neglect by those in charge of child or young person. The trial is scheduled on July 14.

Besides the witnesses, the prosecution will also present a video footage in court. The defendant's former ward will be among those giving evidence in court.

The defense told the court they would be cross-examining some of the witnesses to raise some issues.

On May 19, Emerolyne pleaded not guilty to the charge. The prosecution said the defendant hurt the child on Mar. 6 in the flat of her employer in North Point. The action, the prosecution charged, could have "likely caused unnecessary suffering or injury" to the victim.

Remains of FDH in To Kwa Wan accident flown home

By Ally **Constantino**

THE remains of Filipino domestic worker Rodolfo Villaruel were set to be repatriated in the evening of June 28, an official of the Philippine Consulate General said.

Assistance to Nationals Officer Danilo Baldon said Villaruel's body would be flown to the Philippines at 10:30 p.m. and would be brought to the Funeraria Paz in Marikina City. The remains would be accompanied by Villaruel's daughter Cheryl, he said.

Villaruel, along with the 85-year-old mother of his employer, died in a traffic accident in To Kwa Wan on June 15.

Labor Attache Jalilo dela Torre said Villaruel's family would be receiving P200,000 cash assistance from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and additional P20,000 for burial assistance.

At a memorial service held by various migrant groups on Chater Road on June 25, Cheryl thanked her father's employers, and friends who made his 18-year stay in Hong Kong "happy".

Flora, one of Villaruel's employers, said losing two people at the same time was "hard to understand".

"Rudy worked with our family for more than 18 years. In the first four years, he took care of my father and for the rest of his time he took care of our family.

"I think most of you know that Rudy was not just our helper, but he was part of our family and to our popo he was also a friend," Flora said while crying.

Reports said a bus with tourists from the mainland hit the woman and the Filipino while crossing Ma Tau Kok Road at around 10 a.m on June 15. In a statement posted on the government website, the Police said that at about 9:45 a.m., a 58-year-old man drove a coach to board passengers at Ma Tau Kok Road.

The coach reportedly rushed forward suddenly and hit a bus. It subsequently passed by the pedestrian crossing near Pak Tai Street and knocked down the two victims.

Villaruel's family, friends, and employers turn emotional during the memorial service held on Chater Road on June 25.

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Foreign domestic workers...

From page 1

"The [standard] working hours could have been significant advancement to address modern-day slavery of migrant domestic workers. But it seems the Hong Kong government is promoting slavery and slave-like treatment of MDWs instead of resolving it," said AMCB spokesman Eman Villanueva.

Shiella Grace Estrada, chairperson of PLUDW-HK, said they were disappointed that despite consulting migrant domestic workers about standardizing working hours, they were still excluded from the proposal.

"Sa consultation na ginawa nila sa Hong Kong, lahat halos (ng labor unions) may representatives and they even accepted our statement about the need of MDWs to have standard working hours.

"Then if they already had in mind to exclude us, why did they include us in the consultation? That consultation was not real then because they know that domestic workers suffer the most because of long working hours," Estrada said.

She added that, ultimately, allowing migrant domestic workers to continue working long hours, would be detrimental to employers as insufficient rest could lead to ill health.

"Many employers do not allow their domestic workers to take a sick leave unless the (illness) is serious. Some employers, walang binibiling medical insurance...It's a shame as Hong Kong government keeps claiming that Hong Kong is the best place for domestic workers, but why is there exclusion from labor protection?" Estrada said.

The LD's proposal drew widespread criticism both from those who are supporting and opposing setting standard working hours in Hong Kong.

To address long working hours in the city, the LD proposed that employers include or state in the contract of low-income workers, or those earning $11,000 or less each month, their contract working hours.

According to the 2016 UBS' annual "Prices and Earnings" study, workers in Hong Kong spent 50.11 hours a week at the workplace, the longest hours out of the 71 global cities included in the poll.

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

On December 18 last year, the International Migrants Day, a group of migrant workers turned over to the office of Hong Kong Chief Executive C.Y. Leung a petition asking for standardized working hours, particularly "11 hours of uninterrupted rest." Migrant workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and Nepal signed the petition.

Villanueva and Estrada lambasted the LD representatives' statement that "most of the employers are friendly" as the reason for the exclusion of migrant domestic workers from contract working hours, saying the need to ensure proper rest be given to them should be legislated

Villanueva added that the latest proposal from the LD showed the "blatant discrimination" and "unfair treatment" of MDWS.

"Kahit na sa contracted working hours, they still excluded MDWs. Officially, sa recommendation excluded daw ang lahat ng hindi covered sa Employment Ordinance or sa Statutory Minimum Wage ordinance. Nasa second category ang MDWs," he said.

Hong Kong, Villanueva said, has repeatedly taken steps that resulted in the social exclusion of MDWs.

"Noon sa minimum wage, excluded ang live-in [workers]. Around 98 percent or more of live-in domestic workers are migrants. After na-exclude kami sa Mimnimum Wage Ordinance, ngayon naman ay excluded ulit kami sa working hours regulation dahil excluded kami sa Minimum Wage Ordinance.

"The discrimination, exclusion, and slavery of MDWs have been made systematic and institutionalized here in Hong Kong," he said.

Hong Kong lawmakers have asked the LD to withdraw the proposal, he said.

In addressing the opposition to the Standard Working Hours Committee proposal, a LD spokesperson told Hong Kong News they will "adopt a legislative approach to mandate employers to enter into written employment contracts with the lower-income grassroots employees, which shall include terms on working hours and overtime compensation arrangements"

"And specify that lower-income grassroots employees should be entitled to overtime compensation by way of overtime pay at a rate no less than the rate of the agreed wages or the equivalent time-off in lieu."

The spokesperson added that the exclusion of live-in domestic workers was made owing to their "distinct working pattern and nature" of their work, and the "potential socio-economic ramifications and the long-established policy of FDHs."

The LD said it would continue to listen to the views of the "community in finalising the proposals".

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- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.6 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Color ○

Price **$1,599**

Down **$159**

6 Monthly **$400**

Samsung Note 4

0% Interest

- 5.7 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 3.7MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- 2.7 GHz Quad-core
- 3GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Color ●

Price **$2,790**

Down **$199**

6 Monthly **$432**

Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 T113

- 7.0 Inch
- 2MP Rear
- 8GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.3 GHz
- 1GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop

Color ○

Price **$790**

Down **$199**

6 Monthly **$178**

Samsung Galaxy A9 Pro

0% Interest

- 6 Inch
- 16MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.8 GHz
- 4GB RAM
- 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Fingerprint

Color ○

Price **$3,299**

Down **$299**

6 Monthly **$500**

Samsung Galaxy J3 Pro

- 5.0 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Color ○

Price **$840**

Down **$99**

6 Monthly **$208**

LG X Screen

- 4.9 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Color ●

Price **$890**

Down **$159**

6 Monthly **$211**

Samsung Galaxy J5 (2016)

- 5.2 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 4G
- Dual Sim

Color ○

Price **$1,199**

Down **$159**

6 Monthly **$294**

Central : Store 119, 127, 152, 218, 268, 309 & 324, World Wide Plaza, 19 Des Voeux Road, Central, H.K.

Causeway Bay : Store 103 & 111 Causeway Bay Centre, 15-23 Sugar Street, Causeway Bay, H.K

North Point : Store 07, G/F, Odeon Plaza No.28 Shu Kuk Street North Point, H.K.

Hung Hom : Store B31, 1/F, Planet Square No. 1-15, Tak Man Street Hung Hom, Kowloon

Hung Hom : Store 5, G/F, Hung Hom Shopping Mall, 2-34E Tak Man Street, Hung Hom, Kowloon

Shatin : Store 67, Level 3, Shatin Lucky Plaza 1-15 Wang Pok Street, Shatin, N.T.

Tsuen Wan: Store 125, 1/F, Lik Sang Plaza, No. 263-275 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.

Yuen Long: Store 25 G/F, Healey Building, No. 221-223 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, N.T.

Yuen Long: Store 36 G/F, Wu Fat Building, No. 8 Wang Fat Path, Yuen Long, N.T.

Sheung Shui: Store 69, L1, Lung Fung Garden, No. 33 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui, NT

Tuen Mun: Store G62, G/F, Come On Building No. 387 Castle Peak Road, Castle Peak Bay, Tuen Mun, N.T.

Remarks : • Prices and visuals are for reference only • More brands and models are available at OWTEL Stores • The above available for 3 or 6 months installment

5.5" Screen Size | 2G 2G | 3G 3G | 4G 4G | Android | iOS iOS System | Dual SIM cards | WiFi WiFi | Bluetooth | Front & Back Camera | Front Camera | Fingerprint | Video

Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge 128 GB

5.1" 5.1 Inch
12MP Rear + 5MP Front
32GB Storage
2.3GHz Quad Core
4GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Fingerprint
Color ●

Price $5,298
Down $899
6 Monthly $1,175

Kata i3L

0% Interest
Low Downpayment

5" 5 Inch
13MP Rear + 8MP Front
16GB Storage
1.3GHz Quad Core
2GB RAM
Android 5.1 Lollipop
4G
Color ○ ●

Price $960
Down $99
6 Monthly $144

Sony Xperia X Performance

5" 5 Inch
23MP Rear + 13MP Front
64GB Storage
1.6GHz Quad Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Fingerprint
Color ● ○ ● ●

Price $3,750
Down $299
6 Monthly $888

Kata Selife

0% Interest

5.5" 5.5 Inch
18MP (Flip Camera)
32GB Storage
1.3GHz Octa Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Fingerprint
Color ○ ●

Price $1,650
Down $199
6 Monthly $242

Sony Xperia XA1

NEW

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

Price $2,048
Down $199
6 Monthly $479

Sony Xperia XZ

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

Price $4,598
Down $599
6 Monthly $1,050

Kata C2

0% Interest
Low Downpayment

5.5" 5.5 Inch
13MP Rear + 5MP Front
8GB Storage
1.3GHz Quad Core
1GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
3G
Dual SIM
Color ● ○

Price $699
Down $99
6 Monthly $100

Huawei Y6 Pro

Low Downpayment

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

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

Sony Experia XZs

NEW

5.2" 5.2 Inch
19MP Rear + 13MP Front
32GB Storage
1.6GHz Quad Core
4GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Color ●

Price $4,498
Down $699
6 Monthly $1,008

Samsung Galaxy J1 (2016)

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

Price $990
Down $199
6 Monthly $215

Huawei Nova Plus

$0 Downpayment

5.5" 5.5 Inch
16MP Rear + 8MP Front
32GB Storage
12GHz Octa Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Color ● ●

Price $2,880
Down $0
6 Monthly $720

Huawei Nova

BARU
Low Downpayment

5" 5 Inch
12MP Rear + 8MP Front
2.0GHz Octa Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Color ● ●

Price $1,890
Down $99
6 Monthly $456

Kata i5

0% Interest
Low Downpayment

5.5" 5 Inch
13MP Rear + 8MP Front
16GB Storage
1.3GHz Octa Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Fingerprint
Color ● ● ●

Price $1,290
Down $99
6 Monthly $199

Asus Zenfone 3 Max ZC520TL

Low Downpayment

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

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

Apple iPhone 7 Plus 128 GB

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

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

Apple iPhone 7 Plus 256 GB

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

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

Sony Xperia X

$0 Downpayment

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

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

Samsung Galaxy On7

5.5" 5.5 Inch
13MP Rear + 8MP Front
32GB Storage
Octa Core 2.0 GHz
3GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Dual Sim
Color ○

Price $1,450
Down $199
6 Monthly $354

Sony Xperia XA

Low Downpayment

6" 6 Inch
21.5MP Rear + 16MP Front
16GB Storage
1.6GHz Octa Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Color ● ○ ●

Price $1,598
Down $99
6 Monthly $383

LG Stylus 3

NEW

5.7" 5.7 Inch
13MP Rear + 5MP Front
16GB Storage
Octa-core 1.4 GHz
2GB RAM
7.0 Nougat
4G
Dual SIM
Fingerprint
Color ●

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

Samsung Galaxy J7 Prime

Low Downpayment

5.5" 5.5"
13 MP Rear + 8MP Front
32 GB Storage
1.36Hz Octa Core
3 GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Color ● ●

Price $2,098
Down $99
6 Monthly $508

HTC Desire 10 Pro

$0 Downpayment

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

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

Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro

NEW

6" 6 Inch
16MP Rear + 16MP Front
64GB Storage
1.44GHz Octa Core
6GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Fingerprint
Color ● ● ●

Price $3,698
Down $199
6 Monthly $892

Huawei P9 Lite

5.2" 5.2 Inch
13MP Rear + 8MP Front
16GB Storage
1.7GHz Octa Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Color ○ ● ●

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

Huawei P10 Lite

NEW

5.2" 5.2 Inch
12MP Rear + 8MP Front
32 GB Storage
2.15 GHz Octa-core
4 GB RAM
Android 7.0 Nougat
4G
Dual Sim
Fingerprint
Color ● ● ●

Price $2,380
Down $199
6 Monthly $562

Apple iPhone 7 – 256 GB

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

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

Samsung Galaxy J5 Prime

5" 5 Inch
13MP Rear + 5MP Front
32GB Storage
1.4GHz Quad Core
2GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Fingerprint
Color ● ●

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

Samsung Galaxy C7 Pro

NEW

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

Price $3,098
Down $199
6 Monthly $742

Apple iPhone 7 – 128 GB

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

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

LG V20

5.7" 5.7 Inch
16MP Rear + 5MP Front
32GB Storage
1.6GHz Quad Core
4GB RAM
Android 7.0 Nougat
4G
Dual SIM
Color ● ● ●

Price $4,550
Down $599
6 Monthly $1,038

Kata M3s

NEW

5.5" 5.5 Inch
13MP Rear + 8MP Front
16GB Storage
1.3GHz Quad Core
2GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Color ● ○

Price $1,490
Down $99
6 Monthly $344

Free Kata S100

Kata S100

Low Downpayment

2.4" 2.4 Inch
0.3 MP Rear
32MB Storage
Spreadtrum SC6531D
32MB RAM
2G
Color ● ●

Price $99
Down $39
6 Monthly $19

LG K10 (2017)

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

Price $1,419
Down $199
6 Monthly $322

Kata C3

Low Downpayment
Pre-order Available
NEW

5.5" 5.5 Inch
13MP Rear + 5MP Front
8GB Storage
Quad core 1.3GHz
1GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
3G
Color ●

Price $899
Down $99
6 Monthly $201

Samsung Galaxy S8

NEW

5.8" 5.8 Inch
12MP Rear + 8MP Front
64GB Storage
Octa-core 2.3 GHz
4GB RAM
7.0 Nougat
4G
Dual Sim
Color ● ● ●

Price $5,698
Down $899
6 Monthly $1,275

HTC U Play

NEW

5.2" 5.2 Inch
16MP Rear + 16 Front
32GB Storage
1.2GHz Quad Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Color ●

Price $3,099
Down $399
6 Monthly $709

Samsung Galaxy C5 Pro

NEW

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

Price $2,798
Down $199
6 Monthly $667

Sony Xperia X Compact

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

Price $2,998
Down $499
6 Monthly $667

HTC U Ultra

NEW

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

Price $5,698
Down $899
6 Monthly $1,275

LG G6

NEW

5.7" 5.7 Inch
13MP Rear + 5MP Front
32GB Storage
Quad-core 2.3GHz
4GB RAM
Android 7.0 Nougat
4G
Fingerprint
Color ●

Price $5,398
Down $599
6 Monthly $1,250

Sony Xperia XA Ultra

$0 Downpayment

6" 6 Inch
21.5MP Rear + 16MP Front
16GB Storage
2GHz Octa Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
4G
Color ● ○ ●

Price $2,298
Down $0
6 Monthly $575

Sugar Y7 Max

5.5" 5.5 Inch
13MP Rear + 5MP Front
16GB Storage
1.3GHz Quad Core
3GB RAM
Android 6.0 Marshmallow
4G
Dual SIM
Fingerprint
Color ● ●

Price $1,198
Down $199
6 Monthly $287

Kata M4s

NEW

- 5.5 Inch
- 18MP Rear + 8MP Front
- 32GB Storage
- Octa core 1.5GHz
- 32GB RAM
- Android 7.0 Nougat
- 4G
- Fingerprint
- Color

Free Clear Case & Screen Protector

Price $2,499
Down $199
6 Monthly $571

Acer ES1-432

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

Canon EOS 1300D with 18-55mm

NEW

Price $3,980
Down $299
6 Monthly $1,012

Casio G-Shock 120A

NEW
Low Downpayment

Price $730
Down $99
6 Monthly $179

Casio G-Shock 100C

NEW
Low Downpayment

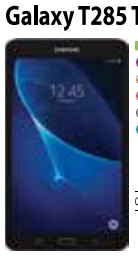
Price $899
Down $99
6 Monthly $224

Casio Baby G 110PP7

NEW
Low Downpayment

Price $799
Down $99
6 Monthly $197

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
- Color

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

Acer ES1-131

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

Go Pro Hero 5 Black Action Cam

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

Casio Baby G 110PP

NEW
Low Downpayment

Price $799
Down $99
6 Monthly $197

Casio G-Shock 7900

Low Downpayment

Price $840
Down $99
6 Monthly $208

Naviforce 9074

NEW
Low Downpayment

Price $259
Down $99
6 Monthly $63

Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1

0% Interest

- 10.1 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Octa-core 1.6 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Color

Price $2,530
Down $299
6 Monthly $372

Lenovo Ideapad 110-14

NEW

Price $4,399
Down $599
6 Monthly $1,074

Canon Power Shot G9X

NEW

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

Casio Baby G 110TX

NEW
Low Downpayment

Price $899
Down $99
6 Monthly $224

Alba Active 3111

NEW

Price $680
Down $129
6 Monthly $43

Naviforce 9049

NEW
Low Downpayment

Price $259
Down $99
6 Monthly $63

Huawei T2 7 LTE

- 7 Inch
- 2MP Rear + 2MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- 1.5GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 6.0.1 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Color

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

Fuji Instax Share Sp-2 Printer

NEW

Price $1,390
Down $199
6 Monthly $338

LG Pocket Photo Printer

NEW

Price $910
Down $199
6 Monthly $210

Kata V5

NEW

- 4.5 Inch
- 8MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 8GB Storage
- 1.3GHz Quad Core
- 1GB RAM
- Android 5.1 Lollipop
- 3G
- Dual SIM
- Color

Price $599
Down $99
6 Monthly $129

Romoss DP10 10000mAh Power Bank

NEW

Price $198
Down $59
6 Monthly $43

Romoss Sense 4 10400mAh Power Bank

NEW

Price $128
Down $29
6 Monthly $30

Lenovo Tab3 7 Essential LTE

NEW

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

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

Astrum ET250 Bluetooth Earphones

NEW

Price $99
Down $29
6 Monthly $16

Astrum SM350 Bluetooth Speaker

NEW

Price $199
Down $59
6 Monthly $44

Kata T5

Low Downpayment
Pre-order Available
NEW

- 7.85 Inch
- 8 MP Rear + 5 MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad core 1.3GHz
- 1GB RAM
- Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- WiFi
- Color

Price $999
Down $99
6 Monthly $225

Astrum SM310 Bluetooth Speaker

NEW

Price $159
Down $59
6 Monthly $33

Jaybird Bluebuds X

Price $899
Down $199
6 Monthly $204

Kata C2

Kata i3L

Kata Selfie

Kata i5

Special Offer

0% Interest

Down $299
6 Monthly $717
Price $4,599

Free

- Romoss sense mini 5000 mah powerbank
- Naviforce watch
- Flip covers
- Screen protectors

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

Low Downpayment

Free Romoss Sense Mini Php05 5000mAh Powerbank

Asus Zenfone 3 Max ZC553KL

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

- 5.0 Inch
- 13MP Rear + 5MP Front
- 16GB Storage
- Quad-core 1.2 GHz
- 2GB RAM
- 6.0 Marshmallow
- 4G
- Dual SIM
- Color

NEW

Free Romoss Sense Mini Php05 5000mAh Powerbank

Asus Zenfone Live

Down $199 | 6 Monthly $292 | Price $1,299

OWTEL Appliances

Philips
Shine Protect Hair Dryer 903

Price $358
Down $59
6 Monthly $86

Panasonic
Wrist Blood Pressure Meter 10

Price $510
Down $159
6 Monthly $101

Rasonic
Mini Rice Cooker - Y5H

Price $219
Down $29
6 Monthly $52

Samsung
32" 4003

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

Philips
Aquatouch Wet & Dry Electric Shaver 750

Price $648
Down $59
6 Monthly $163

Philips
Electric Shaver 560

Price $498
Down $59
6 Monthly $123

Kenwood
Blender Xtract Sport 060

Price $419
Down $59
6 Monthly $102

Kenwood
Blender 470

Price $499
Down $59
6 Monthly $124

Samsung
22" 5001

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

Samsung
24" 58

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

Panasonic
Men Shaver 34

Price $56
Down $19
6 Monthly $12

Philips
Hairclipper 3410

Price $338
Down $59
6 Monthly $81

Kenwood
Blender 011

Price $499
Down $599
6 Monthly $123

Kenwood
Sandwich Maker 650

Price $498
Down $59
6 Monthly $123

Omron
Pulse Massager

Price $840
Down $99
6 Monthly $201

Omron
Wrist Blood Pressure

Price $588
Down $99
6 Monthly $136

Philips
Hair Dryer 8112

Price $129
DP $39
6 Monthly $52

Panasonic
Hair Dryer 51

Price $210
Down $79
6 Monthly $40

Kenwood
Toaster 020

Price $628
Down $59
6 Monthly $158

Kenwood
Weighing Scales 401

Price $319
Down $59
6 Monthly $76

Omron
Body Composition Monitor HBF216

Price $760
Down $99
6 Monthly $187

Omron
Upper Arm Blood Pressure Monitor Hem-7130

Price $699
DP $99
6 Monthly $165

Panasonic
Eyelash Curler 2300

Price $110
Down $39
6 Monthly $21

Philips
Essentialcare Hair Dryer 603

Price $218
Down $39
6 Monthly $52

Panasonic
Lady Epilator

Price $290
Down $99
6 Monthly $56

Panasonic
Rice Cooker 105

Price $359
Down $79
6 Monthly $80

Sony
Radio 26

Price $138
Down $29
6 Monthly $32

Sony
Radio 306

Price $259
DP $59
6 Monthly $60

Philips
Easy Natural Curler 10

Price $348
Down $59
6 Monthly $83

Panasonic
Hair Curler A11

Price $348
Down $59
6 Monthly $83

Panasonic
Rice Cooker 185

Price $399
Down $79
6 Monthly $90

Philips
Rice Cooker 3011

Price $289
Down $59
6 Monthly $65

Mitsubishi
Fan 12

Price $328
Down $59
6 Monthly $75

Toshiba
Radio Txpr-20

Price $119
Down $19
6 Monthly $29

Panasonic
Ionity Hair Brush 10

Price $280
Down $99
6 Monthly $54

Philips
Essentialcare Ionic Straightener 403

Price $278
Down $39
6 Monthly $68

Philips
Rice Cooker 3017

Price $369
Down $79
6 Monthly $83

Panasonic
Blender 1011

Price $288
Down $59
6 Monthly $65

Panasonic
Microwave 332

Price $769
Down $99
6 Monthly $183

Panasonic
Water Purifier 225

Price $328
Down $59
6 Monthly $75

Maute leader dead

By Maia **Lopez**

AFTER more than a month of fierce fighting in Marawi City, the military said Omar Maute, one of the two leaders of an Islamic State-inspired group of terrorists waging war against the government in Mindanao, is dead.

Omar Maute

Joint Task Force Marawi spokesman Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera said there was a "strong indication" that Omar has already been neutralized.

President Rodrigo Duterte had earlier offered a P5 million bounty each for Omar and Abdullah Maute. Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said a Malaysian financier of the siege in Marawi City is also believed to have been killed. Año said Malaysian Mahmud bin Ahmad was badly wounded in the fighting in Marawi last month and reportedly died on June 7. He said the military has a general idea where Mahmud was buried and troops are trying to locate the exact spot with the help of civilians to recover the remains and validate the intelligence received.

Año, citing intelligence shared by foreign counterparts, said Mahmud was suspected of channeling more than P30 million to the Maute group to acquire firearms, food and other supplies for the attack. A former Malaysian university professor who later turned jihadi and received training in Afghanistan, Mahmud appeared in a video showing the Maute brothers and an Abu Sayyaf leader.

Court issues fresh warrant vs Leila

By Maia **Lopez**

ANOTHER Muntinlupa City court has issued an arrest warrant for Senator Leila de Lima over allegations that she abetted the proliferation of illegal drugs inside the New Bilibid Prison during her term as Justice secretary.

Judge Amelia Fabros-Corpuz issued the arrest warrant against De Lima and her co-accused Jose Adrian Dera alias Jad De Vera.

De Lima's counsel, Alexander Padilla, said their camp would ask the court to recall the arrest order as he described the case as the "weakest" among the three drug-related cases filed against the senator by the Department of Justice.

The senator is also facing illegal drug trading cases before Judge Patria Manalastas-de Leon of Branch 206 and Judge Juanita Guerrero of Branch 204, who first ordered the senator's arrest and detention on February 23. De Lima is currently detained at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center inside Camp Crame in Quezon City.

According to the DoJ, De Lima had conspired with Dera in committing illegal drug trading when the latter "demanded, solicited and extorted" money and vehicles from Peter Co, a high profile inmate at the national penitentiary.

In his affidavit, Co said that on March 25, 2016, Dera received P2 million out of the P5 million he demanded for the release of Co's niece Sally, who together with her husband and companions had been detained and threatened to be charged with violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Dera also allegedly seized Co's four vehicles to be used for De Lima's senatorial campaign. Co further alleged that Dera got from Sally on March 28, 2016 the additional P3 million he demanded for the former justice secretary's election bid.

Padilla, however, noted that Dera has already denied knowing the senator.

"There's clearly no trail of the supposed vehicles and the alleged campaign donation that would have any link to Senator Leila. It's the weakest case for the prosecution," Padilla said.

He also questioned why the judge handed down the arrest order despite the pendency of their petition before the Supreme Court seeking to nullify the first arrest warrant.

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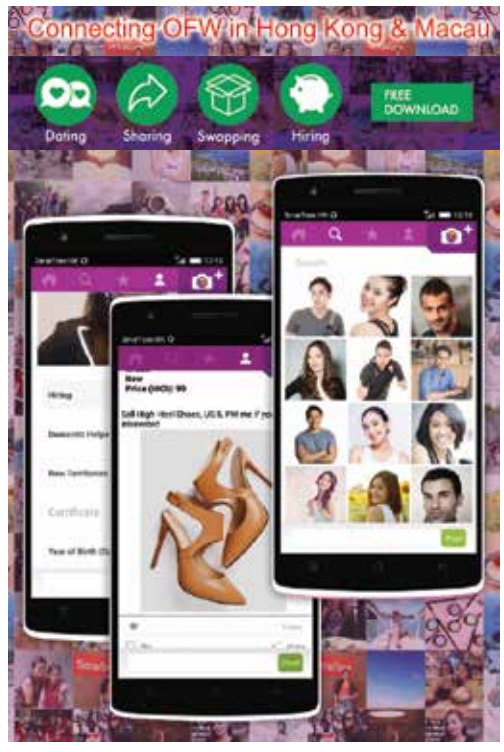

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Trade Promotion Competition Licence No. 48870

Lawmakers oppose 'Trans-Fat' tax

By Maia **Lopez**

LAWMAKERS have raised concerns over two proposed measures which seek to increase excise tax on processed products with salt as well as on sugar-sweetened beverages.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate said House Bill 3719, or the Trans-fat tax, will result in an increase of prices of noodles, sardines and similar food products.

Once enacted, Zarate said one cup of noodles with a 990-milligram sodium content will be priced at P490, after the daily dietary allowance of 500 milligrams per day for adults is subtracted. Similarly, a can of sardines, which has 610 mg sodium content, will be worth P110.

Based on the computation of the Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers Inc., during the last congressional hearing conducted by the House committee on ways and means, chaired by Quirino Rep. Dakila Cua, a P6.85 noodle pack now would be around P800 if it is enacted.

HB 3179, filed by Masbate Rep. Scott Davies Lanete, proposes to impose a P1 excise tax for every milligram of sodium "in excess of one-third of allowable daily intake of sodium chloride as prescribed by the Department of Health."

"Clearly, the primary goal of these measures is to increase taxes and the poor ordinary people will be burdened once again. The poor have little or no income at all and most of the times they have no choice but to buy cheap non-nutritious food," Zarate said.

"This bill is definitely anti-poor and must be opposed," he added.

In filing the bill, Lanete, a doctor, said "sin taxes" on sodium have been imposed in some countries, including Vietnam, Uganda, Tanzania, Suriname, Sri Lanka, Panama, Morocco, Kenya, and Jordan.

"Imposing a tax on the production, sale, and consumption of food products that have salt as an ingredient will not only deter citizens from consuming more than the prescribed daily intake but will also generate additional funds for the government," Lanete said.

"Salt is a silent killer, as its consumption has a correlation with high blood pressure, which consequently leads to increased risks of having a heart attack or stroke. Due to the harmful effects of salt, many countries have imposed a 'sin tax' on salt to deter people from consuming it. It is also a way for these states to pressure their people to adopt a healthier diet," he added.

But Zarate argued that taxation should not be the solution if the government wants to make it a health issue.

"For instance, government could ban chichiria and noodles in grade school or it can mandate for cheap nutritious food in schools or even place price controls on nutritious food and viands so that they can be more affordable," Zarate said.

At the Upper House, Senator Juan Edgardo Angara warned the Philippines may be violating the rules of the World Trade Organization if it passes the measure.

DOT drops contract with ad agency

By Maia **Lopez**

'Experience the Philippines' ad

THE Department of Tourism has cancelled its contract with McCann Worldwide Philippines after its "Experience the Philippines" ad campaign became the center of plagiarism allegations.

"After a diligent review of the ad materials in question, the Department of Tourism has decided to discontinue its partnership with McCann Worldgroup Philippines," the department said.

"In the midst of this controversy, the DoT expects a public apology from McCann over the negative feedback that the department has been receiving, owing to the glaring similarities between McCann's 'Sights' ad and South Africa's ad released in 2014."

The DoT said it will also reopen the procurement process for the production of a new advertising material which will be consistent with the current slogan, "It's More Fun In The Philippines."

"We encourage those with fresh and original ideas that will showcase our diversely-rich tourist destinations and the unique Filipino hospitality to join this venture," the department said.

The DOT added that they are exploring all legal remedies that will be discussed with the professional team of McCann.

Both the Philippines' and South Africa's ad videos featured a blind man who experienced the world through their other senses. The man's disability is not revealed until the end of both videos when he pulls out a walking cane.

Hours after the DoT launched the promotional video in a new tourism campaign, several people on social media slammed the material, saying it has plagiarized the 2014 video of South Africa.

In 2016, Tourism Quebec in Canada was also accused of plagiarism after it released a tourism video which also featured a blind man. But unlike South Africa's promotional video, the blind man's disability was revealed early in Quebec's video.

This was the second time the Tourism Department was caught up in plagiarism allegations.

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OFW escapes death row

By Maia **Lopez**

A Filipina who was convicted of murdering her employer and sentenced to death has been acquitted by the Court of Appeals in Al Ain.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said household worker Jennifer Dalquez was found innocent "without diyyah or payment of blood money" after she argued that she was only defending herself from her employer's attempt to rape her.

"The Philippine embassy in Abu Dhabi reported to the DFA that the Court of Appeals in Al Ain acquitted Jennifer Dalquez from the alleged crime of murder," the department said.

The 30-year-old Dalquez, a mother of two, said her employer tried to rape her at knife point on Dec. 14, 2014.

In May 2015, Dalquez was convicted of murder and was sentenced to death but her legal counsel filed an appeal.

The DFA noted that throughout the process, the agency has provided Dalquez a

Dalquez

lawyer and shouldered the expenses for her parents's visit in Al Ain in October 2015 and March 2017.

Dalquez, however, cannot return to the Philippines yet as the court sentenced her to five years imprisonment for the theft of a mobile phone.

Since she has already spent two-and-a-half years in jail, she is expected to go home in more than two years.

Her mother, Alicia Dalquez confirmed the news of her acquittal.

"I am overjoyed. I felt relieved by the decision. I have no fear anymore," Dalquez's mother said in a television interview.

"Hopefully, she can be given pardon. While there is life, there is hope," she added.

Migrante International, a non-governmental organization for OFWs, hailed the acquittal of Dalquez.

"We stand resolute to continue the fight to save all Filipinos on death row," Migrante said.

Dalquez's lawyer moved for her acquittal on April 26 after the sons of her victim skipped hearings they were instructed by the Al Ain Judicial Court to attend.

UAE's Court of Appeals had wanted the two sons to swear 50 times, in the name of Allah, that "Jennifer is the only person, and no other person, [who] killed their father."

Had they done so, the court would have upheld the death sentence.

DFA probe urged on Pinay's suicide in Saudi

By Maia **Lopez**

A migrant rights group has urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to conduct an investigation into what it believes is a suspicious death of a domestic helper who allegedly committed suicide in Saudi Arabia.

The Blas F. Ople Policy Center said Jennifer Ross Acuna-Reyes, who had been working in Saudi Arabia for only two weeks, fell from the seventh floor flat of her employer in Jeddah. Susan Ople, who heads the center, said the DFA must investigate Reyes' "mysterious" death due to conflicting claims by witnesses, the victim's family, and her employer.

"The family is convinced that their daughter did not commit suicide. Her employer is claiming otherwise," Ople said.

DFA's public diplomacy executive director Charmaine Aviquivil said embassy lawyers are now investigating the case with Saudi authorities "because suicide is never presumed."

"The investigation will be extremely thorough especially because of the allegations that she died in her employer's flat, where she is supposed to be safe. The embassy will continue to monitor the case and provide updates as soon as available," she said.

Cleaners who worked in the same building claimed foul smell emanating from the employer's flat prior to the recovery of Jenny's body. Witnesses also supposedly saw very little blood in the area where the body was found, indicating that the body may have been transferred from where she really died.

"According to Filipinos living near the building, there was hardly any blood found on the site where she allegedly fell from the 7th floor and landed with her face down on the grass," Reyes' father, Larry Acuna Sr., said.

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Filipino guilty of $9M fraud

By Maia **Lopez**

A Filipino man was convicted of running a $9 million stolen credit and debit card fraud ring in New Jersey.

In a news release, the US Attorney's Office said Angelo Virtucio was slapped with a sentence of 63 months in prison and two years of supervised release by the federal court of Newark.

The 31-year-old Virtucio pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bank fraud in 2016, a year after he was arrested in South Florida.

He admitted purchasing stolen debit and credit card numbers from computer hackers, encoding new cards with the stolen data, and making a series of unauthorized purchases and ATM withdrawals with his "global network of cashers."

According to the US Attorney's Office, the credit card numbers were primarily obtained through computer hacking.

The debit card numbers, on the other hand, were taken through ATM skimming operations.

Meanwhile, a Filipino couple is appealing a three-month prison sentence and deportation order issued by the Dubai Misdemeanors Court for supposedly having sex out of wedlock. The couple were convicted in April, months after the woman was rushed to a hospital in December for pregnancy-related pains.

The 28-year-old Filipina told medical staff that she and her 27-year-old partner were engaged and not married when asked on the whereabouts of her baby's father.

Her partner was arrested after the hospital notified police of their situation. Sex and pregnancy outside marriage are illegal in the United Arab Emirates.

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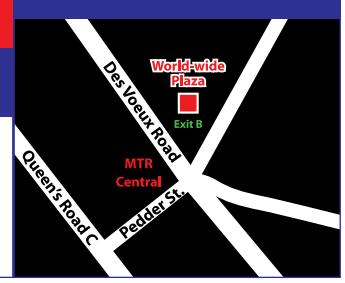

Filipina 'dead' in Grenfell fire

By Maia **Lopez**

A Filipino woman who has gone missing after a fire engulfed a residential high-rise in London is now presumed dead by the city's Metropolitan Police.

The Philippine Embassy in the United Kingdom said sexagenarian Ligaya Moore has not yet been found and has already been "included by the MetPolice as among those presumed to have perished in the Grenfell Tower tragedy."

According to Senator Joel Villanueva, Moore had been residing on either the 17th or 21st floor of the building. Villanueva earlier asked for help finding her as she is a member of the Jesus is Lord church, which had been founded by his father, Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

The 24-storey residential Grenfell Tower in London went up in flames in the early hours of June 14, killing at least 58 people.

The London-based Filipina, the senator said, attended religious services at a church near her apartment at the Grenfell Tower.

The Department of Affairs has confirmed that several Filipinos were injured in the blaze and were brought to hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, no Filipino was hurt in separate blasts that rocked Pakistan last week, the DFA said.

Pagsubok naigpawan, tagumpay ay nakamtan!

By Vicks Reyes **Munar**

SI Juvy Fortunato, 48 tubong Pangasinan , 16 taon na sa Hong Kong ay 'di masukat ang galak nang matunghayan ang latest result ng CPA Board Exam sa Pilipinas. Ang kanyang bunsong anak na si Nimfa, na 20 taong gulang lamang, ang isa sa maswerteng nakapasa sa nasabing exam at take 1 lang. Si Nimfa ay kasalukuyang nagtatrabaho na sa PSV Accounting Firm sa Intramuros

Hindi maiwasan ni Juvy na mapaluha sa galak dahil 'di biro ang dinanas niyang pagsubok at hamon sa buhay. Si Juvy ay 12 taon nang hiwalay sa kanyang asawa at mag-isa niyang itinaguyod ang kanyang mga anak sa pag-aaral. Ang kanyang panganay ay nakatapos lang ng hayskul at nagtanan limang buwan pagkatapos nilang maghiwalay na mag-asawa.

Hindi siya binigo ng kanyang bunso, nagpursige ito ng husto sa pag-aaral at ngayon nga ay isa nang Certified Public Accountant at may magandang trabaho.

Lubos ang pasasalamat ni Juvy sa kanyang mga amo na mababait gayundin ang kanyang mga kaibigan na hindi siya iniwanan at pinahindian sa mga panahong nangangailangan siya ng tulong para sa mga pangangailangan ng anak.

Natupad na ang isa sa kanyang mga pangarap na makapagpatapos ng anak, nakabili na din siya ng sariling lupa at ngayon katuwang ang kanyang anak ay unti-unti na nilang ipinapagawa ang kanilang pinapangarap na bahay.

Naging mabunga ang pagsisikap ni Juvy sa Hong Kong, kahit na anu pa man ang unos na pinagdaanan niya noon ngayon ay sumisilay na ang magandang bukas para sa kanya at sa kanyang mga anak.

NIMFA

JUVY

Baliktad yata?

By Imelda Mae **Bustinera**

MAY problema ang kompanya sa Amerika ng amo ni Monica kaya nagtungo ang among lalaki doon. Nagkataon din na sa Amerika nagbiyahe ang among babae sa Amerika kaya magkasabay na lumipad ang mga ito at naiwan ang dalawang alaga ni Monica na pawang mga dalagita na.

May ugali ang alagang panganay ni Monica na magdala ng mga kaibigan upang sa bahay kumain. Oras ng tanghalian nagtanong ang panganay kay Monica kung anong ihahanda. Sinabihan ng panganay si Monica na huwag ng magluto at ano raw ang gusto niyang kainin dahil pabibilhin na lang ang kaibigan sa labas. Sa hapunan na lang daw magluto.

Nang sumunod na araw ay hindi raw kakain ng hapunan sa bahay kaya ang sarili lang na pagkain ang intindihin. Sa tuwing oras ng kainan ay tinitiyak ng mga alaga na may pagkain si Monica. At sa tuwing tatawag ang mga amo ay sinasabihan ang mga anak na tiyakin may pagkain si Monica. Nasabi tuloy sa sarili ni Monica, 48, may asawa, at anak tubong Negros, na baliktad yata ang sitwasyon. Sa halip na tanungin si Monica ng amo kung kumain na ang mga anak.

Sham Shui Po market

Buking si Ana!

By Vicks Reyes **Munar**

SI Ana, 48 , walong taon nang naninilbihan sa mag-asawang Intsik na may anak na lalaking 10 taong gulang ay masasabing isa sa pinakamaswerteng household service worker sa Hong Kong.

Napakabait ng kanyang mga amo, maliit lang ang kanilang bahay at nagtratarabaho ang mag-asawa at nag-aaral naman ang kanilang anak kaya madalas na siya lang ang naiiwan sa kanilang bahay.

Malaya niyang nagagawa ang kanyang gustong gawin pagkatapos ng trabahong bahay katulad ng pag crocross stitch at iba pa. Aktibo din si Ana sa mga community activities kaya maluwag niyang nagagawa ang mga ibang dapat gawin para sa kanyang grupo na 'di pwedeng gawin ng iba dahil sa stay-in ang mga amo.

Kahit gaano kabait ang kanyang mga amo si Ana ay 'di abusado. Hindi niya ugali ang magpunta kung saan-saan para maglamyerda sa oras ng kanyang trabaho. Sa loob ng walong taon niyang pagtratrabaho 'di siya umaalis ng bahay nang walang paalam.

Isang araw, dahil sa wala siyang mabili sa kanilang lugar na gagamitin para sa kanilang Sunday Event, napilitan si Ana na sumaglit sandali sa Shamshuipo upang bumili nito. Dahil sa hindi siya sanay na tumatakas sa oras ng trabaho, ay may kaba siyang tumuloy.

Nawili siya sa dami ng pamimiliang kulay at disenyo sa shop na pinuntahan kaya siya ay medyo natagalan. Nagmamadali siyang umuwi at sa train station sa dami ba naman ng tao ang amo pa niyang babae ang kanyang nasalubong.

Litong nagpaliwanag si Ana, napangiti na lang ang kanyang amo. Nangako si Ana sa kanyang sarili na hindi na niya uulitin ang kanyang ginawa. Minsan lang niyang ginawa, ngunit sadyang sutil ang tadhana para sa kanya.

Naging leksyon kay Ana ang pangyayaring iyon, at kung di maiwasan na kinakailangang may importanteng puntahan sinisigurado na ni Ana na siya ay nagpapaalam.

Napilitang maningil

By Imelda Mae **Bustinera**

MAHIGIT 20 taon nang nagtatrabaho bilang kasambahay si Norma na hindi na nag-asawa dahil sa bilang panganay sa limang magkakapatid ay siya ang pumasan ng naiwang tungkulin ng kanyang ama. Gusto ni Norma na makapagtapos lahat ang mga kapatid kaya kinalimutan na ang sariling pangangailangan. Walang luho o bisyo at marunong humawak ng pera kaya may naitatabi pa rin sa kabila ng buwanan niyang pagpapadala para sa pag-aaral ng mga kapatid. Pero ang ugaling sobrang maawain ay kinakainisan niya sa sarili. Madalas siyang mautangan at siya pa ang nahihiya at nag aalangan maningil. Kung magkakalakas siya ng loob singilin ang mga pautang ay pwede ng pampuhunan sa negosyo.

May namatay na ng hindi nakabayad sa hindi birong halaga at ang iba hindi niya alam kung nasaan na. Nang nagkasakit at namatay ang ina ni Norma ay halos siya lahat ang gumastos na talagang nasaid ang kanyang ipon at nakahiram pa sa bangko kaya higpit sinturon si Norma.

Minsan nakasalubong ni Norma ang isa sa may utang kaya naglakas loob siyang sabihin na gipit siya kaya kung maaari ibalik na yung hiniram. Nangako naman kay Norma na sa pagsahod ay magbabayad kung may sobra. Kahit papano ay umaasa si Norma na makakadagdag sa panggastos ang masisingil niya. Si Norma, 40, ay tubong Masbate.

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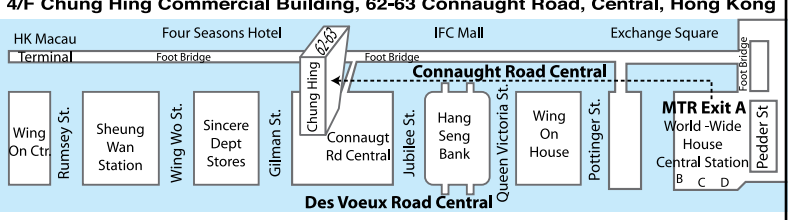

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Police Report Hotline	2527 7177

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OWWA	6345 9324
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Consulate Trunkline	2823 8500
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Department of Health	2961 8989
Equal Opportunities Commission	2511 8211
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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
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Kata opens third store in Singapore

GLOBAL brand Kata opened its third store in Singapore on June 28. Many more Kata stores will come.

Kata Store opened its third shop in the city-state at 304 Orchard Road Level B1 Unit 74, Lucky Plaza.

David Chen, Kata founder and CEO, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the store opening. It was a momentous occasion for the Kata team as it marked their continued expansion and aggressive push in Singapore.

Based in the US, Kata is a designer and manufacturer of cutting-edge mobile devices. Established in 2009 by Chen, also a creative entrepreneur, whose vision is to bring innovation into something that is tangible and possible, the company initially provided call services to customers.

With his innovative visions and goals, Chen then led the company and began building up the Kata brand. Kata has since then expanded its reach across the globe by setting up country offices in Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Brunei, Korea, and the Philippines.

Kata brings original and smart solutions to different markets and industries, including consumers, corporate businesses, educational institutions, and government entities world wide. For more information, please visit www.katadigital.com.

Chen poses as he cuts the ribbon for Kata Store opening ceremony.

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GALLERY

Chef Jay with students of basic baking Saturday class of Culinary Arts Centre. For enquiries, please call 2850 7724 / 2850 7408/ 2850 7438/ 2850 7714.

Jeanette Benedicto , May winner of Gen-Ex Cargo's Pack & Win promo together with Tsuen Wan's branch manager, Andrew Moya.

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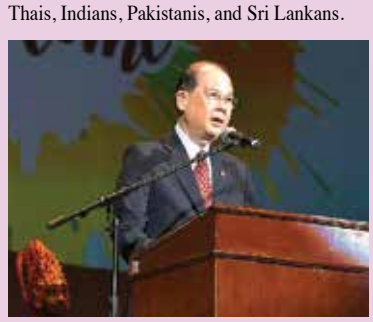
'Celebrate Colours' in HK

ETHNIC minorities showed off their talents and skills in the "Celebrate Colours" multicultural extravaganza held on June 25 at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in wan Chai.

The event was part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR. The event was a collaboration among the ISS Hong Kong, the Philippine Consulate General, and the Hong Kong government to recognize the contribution of ethnic minorities to the city.

"The presence of various ethnic groups in Hong Kong has positively influenced the daily lives of Hong Kong people on all fronts, from arts, music, culture and food to education, business and social services, making Hong Kong a thriving cultural hub," said Chief Secretary for Administration Matthew Cheung Kin-chung at the opening ceremony of the event.

There were 19 performing groups who danced and sang to the audience's delight. Performers were Filipinos, Chinese, Indonesians, Thais, Indians, Pakistanis, and Sri Lankans.


Cheung

Health, Financial talks for OFWs

THE Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong SAR in collaboration with Enrich Personal Development and Noble Life International organized its regular quarterly talks for Filipino migrant workers on May 28 to June 4, at PCG HK conference room.

Ms. Cecile Morais, financial trainer of Enrich Hong Kong gave tips on how to start the year financially wise and encouraged attendees to save money for investment. Morais added that this may enhance their financial capability and help them become financially empowered. Enrich also conducted one-on-one financial consultation to provide a more specific counseling. On the other hand, Dr. Romeo Orteza of Noble Life International discussed how to prevent and cure the common cancers in women. The Noble Life team also conducted free one-on-one medical consultation, and checking of overall health condition through a Quantum Magnetic Resonance Analyzer.

Orteza during his talk (DFA photo).

Morais lectures on finances (DFA photo).

GMA stars visit PCG-HK

JUNE has proved to be a month of celebrations for GMA Pinoy TV, with its participation in the 2017 Tokyo Summer Festival in Japan and a couple of program-based events in Hong Kong and Singapore featuring the stars of "Magpakailanman" and "Meant To Be", respectively.

In observance of the Migrant Workers' Day and 119th celebration of Philippine Independence, Kapuso Comedy Queen Aiai delas Alas and Encantadia heartthrob Ruru Madrid joined their kababayans at the 2017 Tokyo Summer Festival on June 10 and 11 at Ueno Park in Tokyo, Japan.

Organized by the Luminaries Joint Group, the event lasted for nine days and features multicultural performances, contests, and pageants.

Ruru fled in to meet and greet festival attendees on June 10 while Aiai offered her signature show-stopping performance the following day.

On June 2, Ms. Mel Tiangco and the rest of Magpakailanman team were warmly-received by Pinoys abroad as they roamed the streets of Hong Kong to shoot for episodes that will tell the story of OFWs.

These will be about a Filipina working in Disneyland and a homeless Pinay in Hong Kong, to be portrayed by Rochelle Pangilinan and Janice de Belen, respectively.

In-between their three-day shoot, guest stars Mikee Quintos, Kate Valdez, and Nar Cabico along with the "Magpakailanman" crew paid a courtesy visit to Consul General Bernardita L. Catalla at the Philippine Consulate Office in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, the cast of top-rating romantic-comedy TV series "Meant To Be" made their fans swoon in Singapore during a meet-and-greet session held at Ramada Hotel on June 2.

In their first ever Singapore sojourn, "Meant To Be" heartthrobs Ivan Dorschner, Addy Raj, Jak Roberto, and Ken Chan were present to bring the "kilig" during the event, together with Manilyn Reynes, Keempee de Leon, and Sef Cadayona.

GMA team with ConGen Catalla

Editorial

HONG KONG NEWS

Beyond Politics

PRESIDENT Duterte skipped the Independence Day celebrations in Rizal Park on June 12 and was not seen in public for the next four days. On June 20, he visited wounded soldiers in Cagayan de Oro and Marawi evacuees in Iligan. Afterwards, he was absent from the public eye until June 27. Malacanang said the President was tired and needed to rest after spending 23 days on the road to oversee the implementation of martial law in Mindanao.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar said the public should give Mr. Duterte some "leeway".

Of course, the public can understand the President's absence after visiting the troops who were killed or wounded in the fighting in Marawi. We could even forgive him for skipping the Independence Day celebrations after visiting the wake of Marines killed in Marawi the night before. But then, he went off the grid again from June 21 to June 26. The Palace claimed that the President was still working even if he was out of the limelight.

That won't fly. Malacanang should issue a medical report that would credibly debunk insinuations that Mr. Duterte had a medical emergency.

This is not just a concern of the President's critics. His supporters should also be concerned since the political opposition would take over if VP Leni Robredo succeeds Mr. Duterte.

And it's not just about politics. Public interest require that the public be informed truthfully about the President's health.

Of Note

HK's TiP problem

HONG KONG remains among places whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protections Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, the latest Trafficking in Persons Report of the US State Department said.

The Hong Kong government rejected the findings, saying the assessment failed to be fair and objective.

The report identified Hong Kong under "Tier 2 Watch List". Although these places do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, they are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Those under this tier is also identified as places with "absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing"; "there is failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year"; or "the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year."

The report noted that Hong Kong laws "do not criminalize all forms of trafficking", resulting in cases of forced labor.

"The government did not adequately address its policies creating vulnerabilities for foreign domestic workers or conduct public awareness campaigns or conduct public awareness campaigns targeted at preventing sex trafficking," the report said.

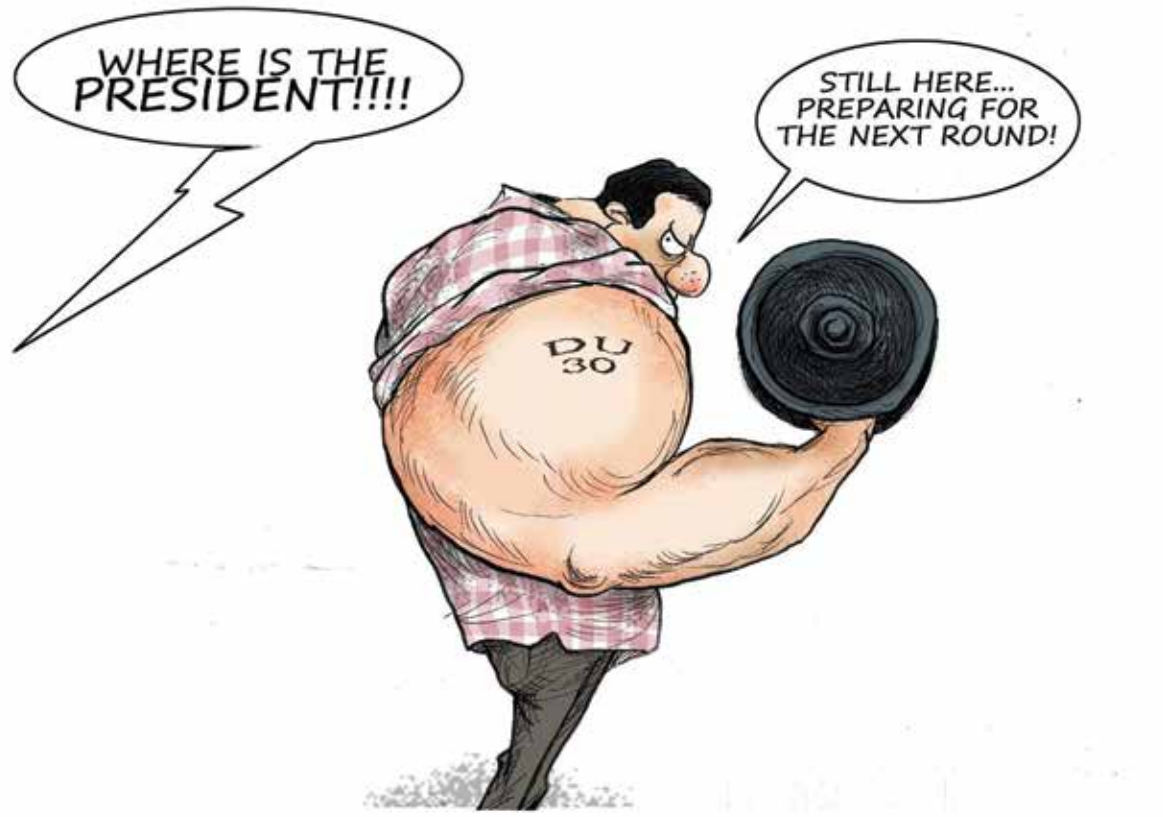
The Hong Kong government said the description was baseless.

It added that the government has spared no effort to safeguard the rights and benefits of over 360,000 foreign domestic helpers in the city.

"FDHs enjoy the same statutory protection under the labour law as local employees and they are further protected through the government-prescribed Standard Employment Contract, " a government spokesman said.

To address concerns, the government has stepped up anti-trafficking in persons measures, which include a new mechanism for TIP victim screening and identification by the Police and the Immigration Department, the spokesman added.

As We See it



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

Reporma o Parusa?

KAMAKAILAN lamang ay pumasa na sa ikatlong pagbasa sa Kongreso ang bagong panukalang batas na HB5636 o ang Tax Reform Bill. Layon daw nito na tuparin ang pangako ni Pangulong Duterte noong kanyang kampanya na ibaba ang binabayarang income tax. Kapag nagkataon ay magbibigay ng kaluwagan ito sa maraming Pilipino. Pero ito ba'y magandang reporma? O nakakapangambang parusa?

Ayon sa panukala, hindi na magbabayad ng income tax ang mga sumasahod ng mas mababa sa P250,000 kada taon. Maging ang 13th month pay ay hindi na rin bubuwisan. Tataas naman ang babayarang income tax ng mga mayayaman.

Pero ang hindi masyadong binabanggit ay ang katotohanan na papalawigin ang implementasyon at koleksyon ng Value Added Tax, mga excise taxes sa langis, at maging asukal at mga sasakyan. Ang mga dating exempted sa VAT na mga produktong pang-konsumo ay ngayon, bubuwisan na. Magpapataw din ng buwis sa lahat nga ng produktong gumagamit ng asukal at langis. Halos lahat na lang ng produkto ay ninanais na buwisan ng Department of Finance.

Kung tutuusin pala, ang anumang pakinabang sa pagbaba ng income tax ay babawiin naman sa pagtaas ng buwis sa mga kinokonsumong mga produkto ng mga kabahayan.

Napatunayan ito sa isang pag-aaral na isinagawa ng Computer Professionals Union. Sa kanilang komputasyon, totoong makakatipid naman ang mga pamilya lalo na yung sumasahod lamang ng minimum wage sa Piipinas. Aabot din ito sa mahigit P762 kada buwan. Subalit dahil nga sa pag-expand pa lalo ng VAT, tiyak na dadagdag din ang gastos ng bawat pamilya sa kuryente, tubig, renta. Dahil naman sa dagdag na excise tax – ang lahat ng prduktong may asukal at gumagamit ng langis ay tataas din. Ayon sa CPU, aabot naman ang dagdag na gastos na ito sa P960 kada buwan. Sumatotal, lugi ang pamilyang Pilipino dahil nabawi ang binawas sa income tax. Maari pang magbayad ng kulang-kulang P200 kada buwan na dagdag gastos dahil sa mga bagong buwis.

Ganyan ka-tuso ang VAT. Anti-mahirap talaga ito dahil mas tinatamaan nito ay ang ordinaryong mamamayan tulad ng mga manggagawa, tsuper, estudyante, guro, at mga OFWs. Dahil lahat tayo ay konsyumer, dadami pa ang mga produkto at serbisyo na ating binibili na mapapatawan ng buwis. Kahit sabihin pa na lahat naman – mayaman o mahirap – ay pantay na mabubuwisan ng VAT, mas mabigat pa rin ang tama nito sa mahihirap.

Aba'y buwisit pala talaga ang buwis na ito! Hindi dapat suportahan ang Tax Reform Bill. Parusa ito!

Dear Editor

Dear Editor,

Mapagpalang araw sa inyong lahat na bumubuo ng Hong Kong News!

Isa ako sa medyo matagal nang nagtratrabaho bilang Household Service Worker at marami na akong narinig na mga kapwa ko HSW na madalas dinadala ng kanilang mga amo sa China na kunwari ay magbabakasyon ngunit ang totoo ay sapilitang pinagtratrabaho ng husto doon.

Nabasa ko sa inyong FB Page na sa pamamagitan ng ating mga opisyales sa Konsulado at POLO ang isyung ito ay mas bibigyang pansin ng Hong Kong Immigration Department(HKID). Ang HKID ay hinihikayat din ang mga biktima ng ganitong klaseng gawain ng mga amo na magreport sa kinauukulan.

Alam kong sa pamamagitan ng aking pagsulat sa inyong pahayagan, ay makakarating ang pasasalamat sa ating mga opisyales sa Konsulado at maging sa POLO na ginagawa ang lahat para sa kapakanan naming mga HSWs.

Nais ko ring papurihan ang HKID na ginagawa din ang karampatang mga aksyon upang mas mapagtuunan ng pansin ang kapakanan ng mga HSWs. Natutuwa ako na magkakaroon ng Information Kiosk sa July 9 at August 27 at sa mga susunod na buwan na naglalayong palaganapin ang pagkamulat sa mga karapatan at responsibilidad naming bilang Foreign Domestic Worker.

Ang mga ito ay napakagagandang balita at kami ay mas umaasa pa na mas lalong mapaigting ang mga magagandang mga hakbang na ito para sa aming kapakanan lalo na upang maiwasan ang mga pang-aabuso.

Sa mga opisyales ng ating Konsulado at POLO, ang HK Immigration Department at Labour Deparment – Mabuhay po kayo!

Sa patnugutan ng Hong Kong News maraming salamat at more power!

Sumasainyo, Lia G.

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Joy Carbonell launches self-titled album

The cover of Joy's album

THE much awaited album of PrimeCredit's Superstar Search grand winner Joy Carbonell was launched on June 18, 2017 during the "Kasiyahan sa Kalayaan, Kabayan!" event, a part of the 2017 Independence Day celebration. The album, entitled "Joy", contains three original songs all composed by Superstar Search musical director Nobel Gabasan.

The Superstar Search singing contest is PrimeCredit's signature event for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Hong Kong. On November 2016, PrimeCredit presented the much-awaited Grand Finals of Superstar Search Season 4.

The very first season of the most popular and credible singing contest in Hong Kong for OFWs was held in 2010. Interestingly, Season 4 grand winner Joy was Season 1's first runner-up. After placing 1st runner-up in Season 1, Joy was greatly motivated to return to the competition and eventually get the title of "Grand Winner".

Six years passed since Season 1 and Joy came back to the competition in April 2016. Between 2010 and 2016, Joy honed her singing pipes by being involved in different musical gigs – joining other singing contests, performing with a band in charity events and concerts across Hong Kong, moving to China for a period of time to work as a band singer, and by becoming a soloist of Unsung Heroes, a community choir composed of domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

This enriching musical journey has prepared Joy for her new role as a Singing Superstar.

During the grand finals, thousands witnessed as Joy sang her heart out and inspired and impressed everyone with her humble desire to win. She received numerous prizes from PrimeCredit that day, but probably the most unforgettable part was the opportunity to perform with the Philippines' Rock Maestro, Bamboo. Bamboo's first ever concert in Hong Kong was held right after the Superstar Search Grand Finals at West Kowloon Cultural District. Joy and Bamboo delighted fans with their version of "Man in the Mirror "- their amazing energy bouncing off each other during their performance.

Superstar Search Musical Director Nobel Gabasan shares about Joy: "Joy is an intelligent singer. She works on whatever you tell her to do, and she develops the idea to make it her own style. She's very dedicated to her craft. Joy sings my songs with just the right emotions - not less and not overacting. It is very crucial to put the appropriate expression as not doing so may lead to the total destruction of the whole musicality. Joy did the right nuances to each piece exactly as what I had in mind when I was writing the songs."

For the first time ever, PrimeCredit has released Joy's album digitally at Spotify, Apple Music, and iTunes. Proceeds from the sale of the music from iTunes will be for the benefit of Joy's chosen charity.

Joy performs with community choir "Unsung Heroes".

Joy takes to the stage during the launching of her album.

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2 GMA shows top social media posts

TWO of GMA Network's biggest prime-time series this 2017, "Mulawin vs. Ravena" and "My Love From The Star", earned spots in the top 10 most-buzzed-about shows worldwide according to a New York-based international media business website.

WorldScreen.com released their Social Wit List for May 2017 where the sequel Mulawin Vs. Ravena ranked third and the network's local adaptation of the Korean novela My Love From The Star ranked fifth in the list of top ten new shows with the most number of Facebook and Twitter comments during their premiere across the globe. According to the site, Mulawin Vs. Ravena's premiere "drew around 104,000 comments, and there was much buzz about the #GreatCast and #Cinematography that had many viewers honoring the #Nostalgia and #GoodMemories it brought about: #KudosForTheFlashbacks."

On the other hand, My Love From the Star garnered around 50,000 comments and was speckled with the hashtags #KudosToJennylynMercado, #FunPlot, and #GoodDirection. The two GMA-produced series are the only dramas from the Philippines that made it to the list, topping over popular global productions which included ones from the U.S. and France.

Meanwhile, the other programs included in the list are U.S.A.'s Dirty Dancing, Twin Peaks, Beat Shazam, and Michael Jackson: Searching for Neverland.

'Mulawin vs. Ravena' cast

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Angel nag-abot ng tulong sa Marawi City

By Cristy **Kasilag**

TILA isang anghel ang aktres na si Angel Locsin na dumating sa Iligan City, Lanao del Norte kamakailan para magbigay tulong sa mga nawalan ng tahanan at napilitan lumikas sa Marawi City.

Sa gitna ng gulo na nangyayari sa Marawi City, kung saan libo na ang mga nagsilikas sa mga iba't-ibang evacuation centers, ay nagtungo ang aktres.

Isa ang 32-taong gulang na si Angel, na ang tunay na pangalan ay Angelica Locsin Colmenares, sa mga volunteer ng Rural Missionaries of the Philippines kung saan bumisita siya sa mga evacuation centers at nag bigay ng mga relief goods. Mayroon din siyang ID na volunteer ng Joint Task Group Emergency Preparedness Response sa Marawi.

Kung sisilipin ang mga post ni Angel sa kanyang Instagram account ay nakarating si Angel sa Marawi City na patuloy pa din binobomba ng militar dahil doon nagkukuta ang terroristang grupo na Maute.

Nagpakita pa siya ng post airstrike na litrato sa kanyang Instagram account.

Pinakita din niya na kahit na mahirap ang buhay ngayon sa Lanao del Sur, may mga lugar pa din nakikita na pagtutulungan at nagbibigay ng libreng pagkain sa mga tao.

Talagang pinapakita ni Angel, na kahit wala siyang superpowers at hindi siya si Darna, ay may magagawa siya.

Lihim sa karamihan, dahil hindi naman ito pinagyayabang ni Angel, ay mayroon siyang dugong bughaw dahil parte siya ng isang royal family na tubong Marawi City. Ang kanyang lolo ay isa sa 15 sultanates ng Marawi City. Sa katunayan mayroon pa siyang mga kamag -anak na naninirahan sa Marawi.

Pero kahit na maganda ang ginawa niya ay hindi pa din maiiwasan na may bumatikos siya o yung mga tinatawag na "bashers" na sinasabing publicity stunt lang daw iyon ng aktres.

Hindi ito ang unang pagkakataon na nakita si Angel na nagbibigay tulong sa mga nangangailangan. Sa katunayan ay aktibo siya sa pagbibigay ng dugo sa Philippine Red Cross (PRC). Pagkatapos ng Supertyphoon Yolanda nuong taong 2013, isa si Angel sa mga artistang nagtungo sa Concepcion, Iloilo kung saan mayroong 10,000 pamilya ang naapektuhan. Nagabot sila ng mga relief goods sa mga tao duon.

Buntis si Pokwang

LABIS ang kaligayahan ng komedyanteng si Pokwang sa mga araw na ito dahil mag-dadalawang buwan na siyang buntis.

Ipinagbubuntis ng 44-ayos na komedyante ang magiging anak nila ng kanyang Amerikanong live-in partner na si Lee O'Brian at labis daw ang pagkagalak nilang dalawa pati ang kanilang mga pamilya sa biyaya na ipinagkaloob sa kanila. Magiging unang apo sa pamilya ni O'Brian ang batang pinagbubuntis ni Pokwang.

Nagkakilala sila Pokwang, na ang tunay na pangalan ay Marietta Subong, at si O'Brian noong taong 2015 sa set ng "Edsa Woolworth" na pinalabas sa TFC (The Filipino Channel).

Hindi ito ang unang anak ni Pokwang. Mayroon siyang anak na babae na si Ria Mae Subong sa dati niyang partner na ngayon ay nakabase sa Japan.

Ayon kay O'Brian, na isa ding aktor, ay sobra silang masaya ni Pokwang na buntis siya muli. Pinagdasal daw nila na mabuntis siya muli.Unang nagbuntis si Pokwang sa anak nila ni O'Brian nuong taong 2015 ngunit siya ay nakunan. Ang abiso daw ng doktor sa aktres ay magpahinga, bed rest talaga dahil maselan ang kanyang pagbubuntis. Kaya naman iniwan muna ni Pokwang ang kanyang mga commitments sa showbiz kahit na ang pagsali niya sa cast ng long-running na palabas na "Ang Probinsyano".

Ang bilang nila ay sa Pebrero ng susunod na taon pa manganganak ang aktres. Hindi pa nila alam kung ano ang magiging kasarian ng bata pero kung lalaki daw ito ay isa sa magiging pangalan nito ay "William". **Cristy Kasilag**

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Horoscope

Capricorn December 22 to January 19

Mas mabuti ang maraming utak na nag-iisip kaysa isa lang. Huwag ka sanang kontra nang kontra para naka-kontra lang.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18

Humanap ka ng bagong mapapakinabangan nang mabawasan ang stress sa buhay. Maari din namang balikan mo ang dati mong libangan kung iyon ang nakakakalma sa iyo noong araw.

Pisces February 19 to March 20

Kausapin mo ang pamilya, importante ang komunikasyon. Sa iyong sarili naman, magpahinga ka rin at ienjoy ang bunga ng iyong pinaghirapan.

Aries March 21 to April 19

May nagagawa ang magandang panahon sa iyo. Mas marami ang nakakapansin na mabuti kang makisama at gusto ka nilang kaibigan o kasama sa trabaho.

Taurus April 20 to May 20

Buwenas ang trabaho sa panahong ito. Gamitin mo itong oportunidad upang makilala ng mga importanteng tao na makapagbibigay sa iyo ng negosyo o projects.

Gemini May 21 to June 20

Mag- break ka muna. Huwag mong papalampasin ang tag-araw na nakatago ka sa iyong bahay o sa iyong trabaho.

Cancer June 21 to July 22

Pag-aralan mong mabuti kung ano ang direksyon na tatahakin mo at nang ang mga umaasa sa iyo ay hindi nakabitin sa balag ng alanganin. Mas makapagplano kung hindi magulo ang isip.

Leo July 23 to August 22

Kung single ka, may napupusuan kang mas bata sa iyo.Baka sa kanya ka na maging maligaya.

Virgo August 23 to September 22

Huwag kang matakot sabihin ang nasa loob mo. Mas mabuti ang nagsasabi ng tapat sa umpisa.

Libra September 23 to October 22

Magtanong ka. Hindi ka magiging maligaya kung sususundin mo ang gusto nila kahit sa palagay mo ay taliwas sa gusto mo.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21

Kung may pera kang pwedeng gawing puhunan, pag-aralan mo ang detalye. Mahirap nang mabawi ang pera kapag nakapirma ka na.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21

Mukhang tuloy na tuloy na ang plano mong bumiyahe sa malayong lugar. Siguraduhin mong malusog ka at ang mga kasama mo.

What's Cooking?

Those looking for easy and simple dish that combines both seafood and pasta, try this Squid Balls in Pasta Soup. It's savory and delicious too! Happy cooking!

Ingredients:
1 pack squid balls between 12-16 balls
1 pack twisted pasta, al dente and drain
1 pack mixed vegetables
1 seafood broth
Salt and pepper to taste

Procedure:
1. In a separate pot of boiling water cook pasta, al dente and drain.
2. In another pot boil seafood broth and add squid balls and cook until they float to the surface.
3. Divide pasta to serving bowls and ladle cooked squid balls and soup stock over.
4. Garnish with mixed vegetable, chopped spring onions and season to taste. Serve with garlic bread.

For more Recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre

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By Chef Jay **Dator**

Jokes

Juan: Anong apelyido ni Sisa?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: eh di Sisa Mistrit (Sesame Street)

Juan: Anong apelyido ni Cedie?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: : Cedie Player (CD Player)

Juan: Anong apelyido ni Beast?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di Beast Kwit (Biscuit)

Juan: Ano ang first name ni Nemo?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Sarahgero Nemo (Sarah Geronimo)

Juan: Anong apelyido ni Denzel?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, Denzel Weta (Dawn Zulueta)

Juan: Anong apelyido ni Curly?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di Curly Gazpi (Kier Legazpi)

Juan: Anong last name ni Anchor?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di Anchor Tis (Anne Curtis)

Juan: Ano ang last name ni Jewel?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, Jewel Torre (Joel Torre)

Juan: Anong last name ni Kula?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di Kula Desma (Kuh Ledesma)

Juan: Anong apelyido ni Christopher?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Christopher Minute (Cristy Per Minute)

Juan: Anong first name ni Keno?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, Krisa Keno (Kris Aquino)

Juan: Anong first name ni Janno?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, Eduman Janno (Edu Manzano)

Juan: Anong first name ni Squall?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, Piolopa Squall (Piolo Pascual)

Juan: Ano ang first name ni Basilio?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, Lacto Basilio (Lactobacillus)

Juan: Ano ang first name ni Kenny G?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di Johnep Kenny G. (John F. Kennedy)

Juan: Ano ang first name ni Volta?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, Johntra Volta (John Travolta)

Juan: Anong first name ni Diether?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di,Tirso Cruz Diether (Tirso Cruz the Third)

Juan: Ano sa Chinese ang "Mommy tignan mo yong buwan?
Pedro: Ano?
Juan: Eh di, MaMonLuk (Chinese Restaurant)

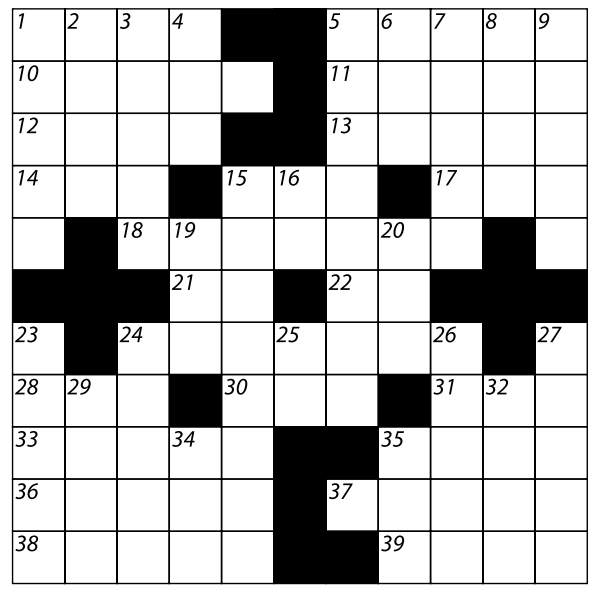
Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

1 Maruming insekto
5 Kiss; Tagalog
10 Hanga
11 Pagsasamantala
12 Palayaw ni Dominador
13 Talima
14 Yunit ng timbang
15 Tatay
17 Tula
18 Tauhan ni King Arthur
21 Youth Assembly
22 Pangatnig
24 Manipis na panloob
28 Barkilyos
30 Nanay
31 Una sa takdang oras
33 Gamit panligo
35 Sitaw
36 Isuplong
37 Upuan ng hari
38 Hindi swerte
39 Bulong

PABABA

1 Itapon
2 Partner ni Dida
3 Nose: Tagalog
4 Tawag sa guro
5 Klase ng isda
6 ___ Sayyaf
7 Pagkamatay sa tubig
8 Usog
9 Tatak ng camera
15 Bayan sa Pangasinan
16 Martial Arts
19 ___ Medel
20 Mr. Agustin
23 Parte ng baboy
24 Kabisera ng Afghanistan
25 Hindi out
26 Baryo
27 Yakap
29 Hita
32 Sigla
34 ___ Engkantada
35 ___ Mina



Answer to last puzzle

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

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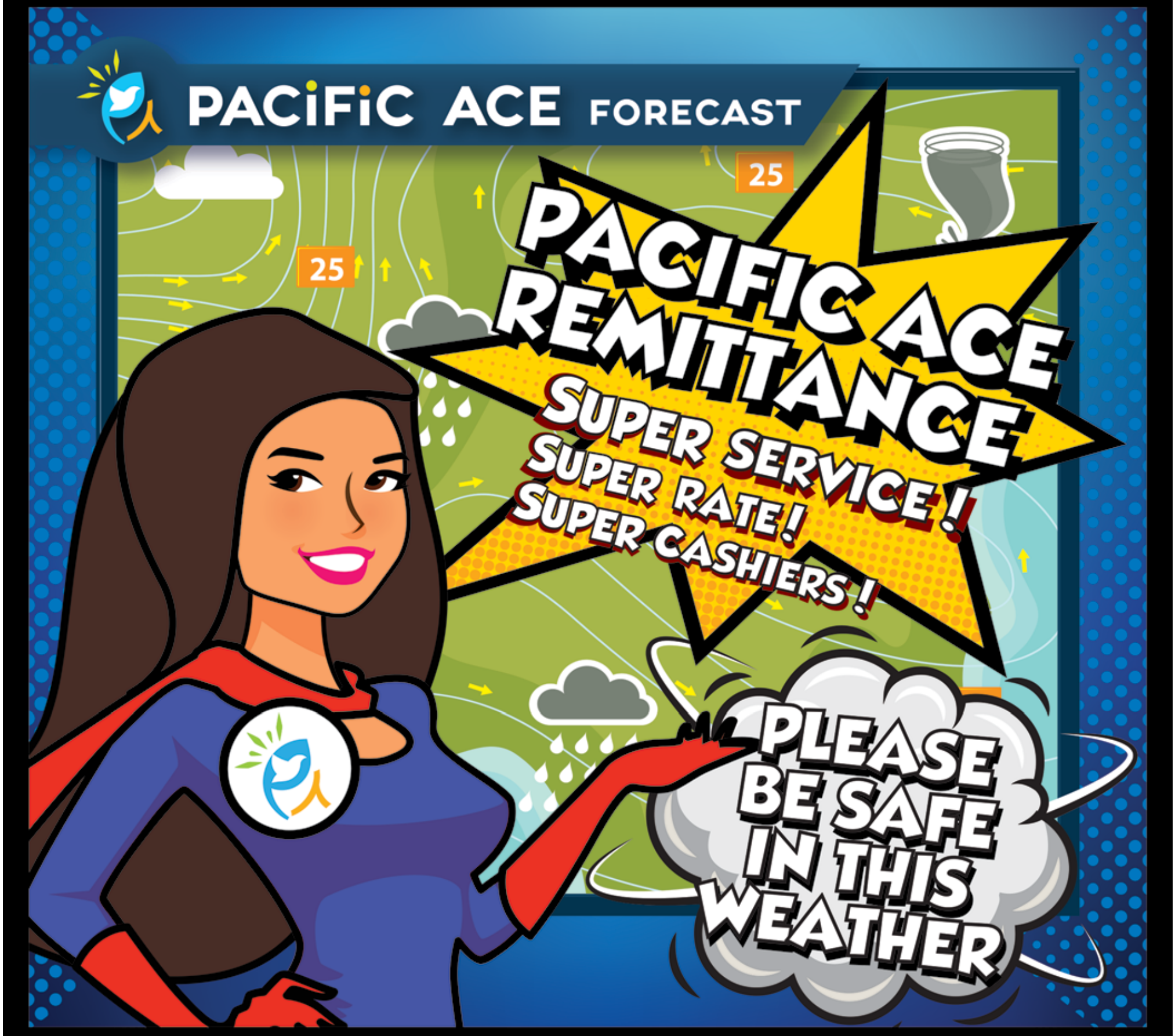

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Branch	Address	Tel # (+853)
San Malo Square	Rua Dos Merca Dores Commercial No. 35-39A Oeste Do Mercado De. S. Domingos Nos. 2-8, Ou Chong Commercial Building Shop D, G/F, Macau	2835- 6277

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